AFTERNOON
KC 617

虫と歌

市川春子作品集

市川春子

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収録作品

星の恋人

ヴァイオライト

日下兄妹

虫と歌

装丁／市川春子

Lovely Strange Dark
MUSHI TO UTA
"BUGS AND SONGS"
BY ICHIKAWA HARUKO
STORY 1
Raws: Elemhunter
Translation: Kalendel
Editing: tim
QC: Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

Mushi to Uta

"Bugs and Songs"

Ichikawa Haruko Collection, Volume 1

Ichikawa Haruko

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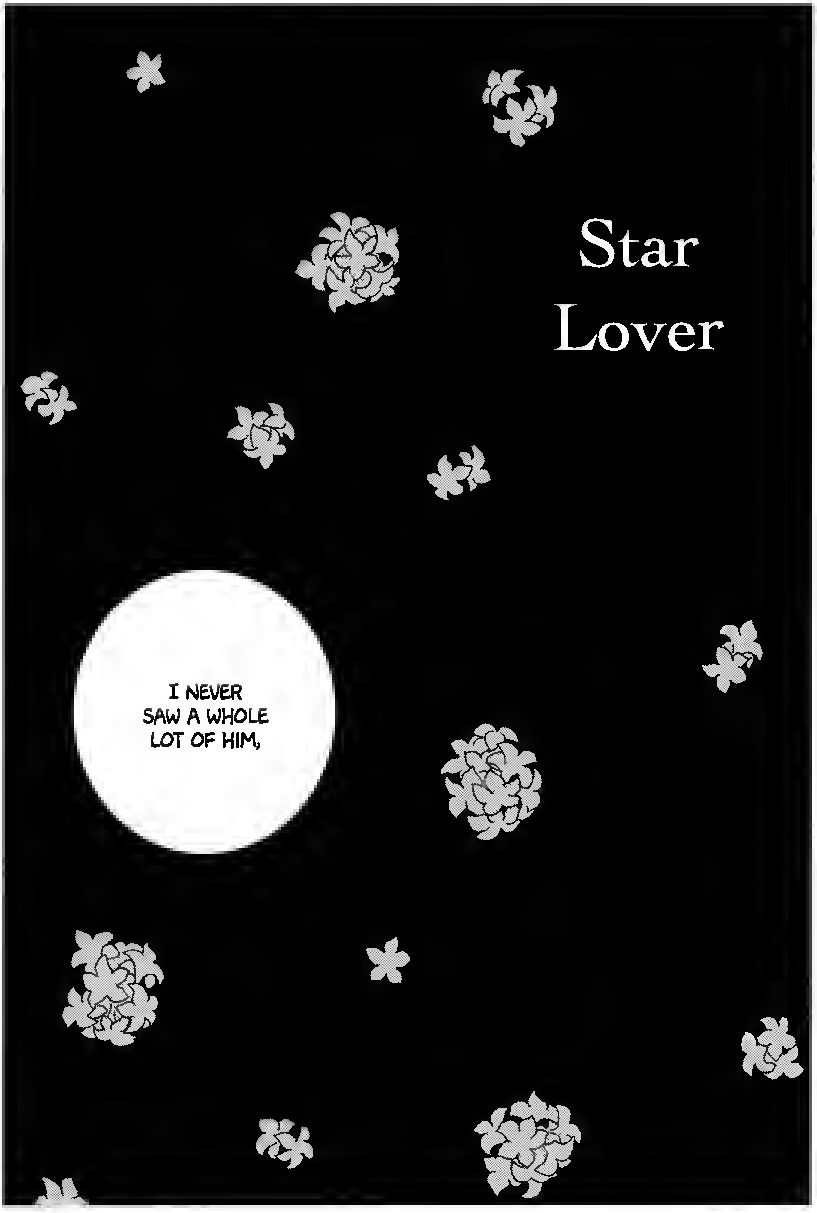
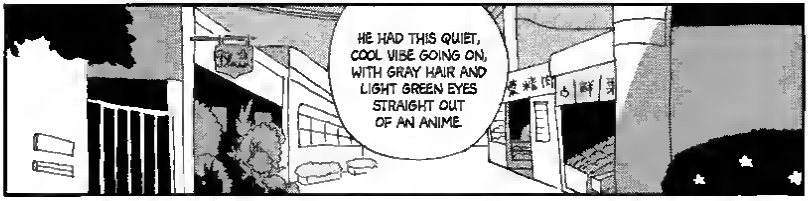
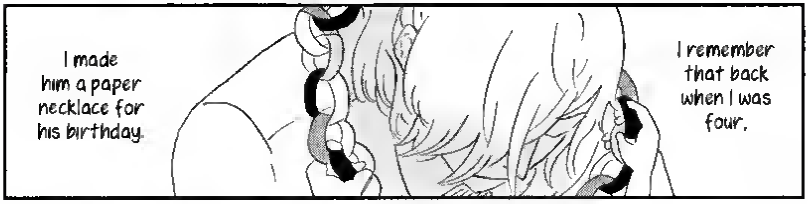
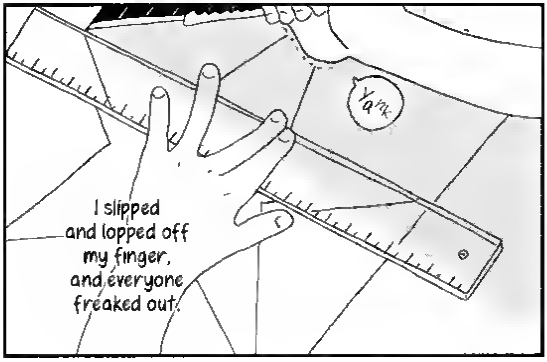

Star
Lover
I NEVER
SAW A WHOLE
LOT OF HIM,

BUT I REALLY DID LIKE MY UNCLE.

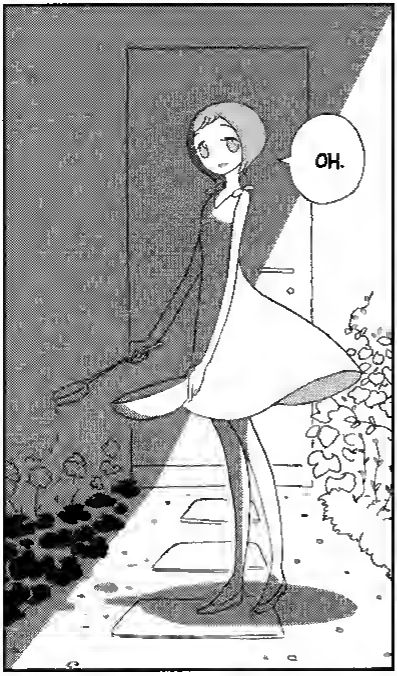

HE HAD THIS QUIET, COOL VIBE GOING ON, WITH GRAY HAIR AND LIGHT GREEN EYES STRAIGHT OUT OF AN ANIME.


I made him a paper necklace for his birthday.
I remember that back when I was four.

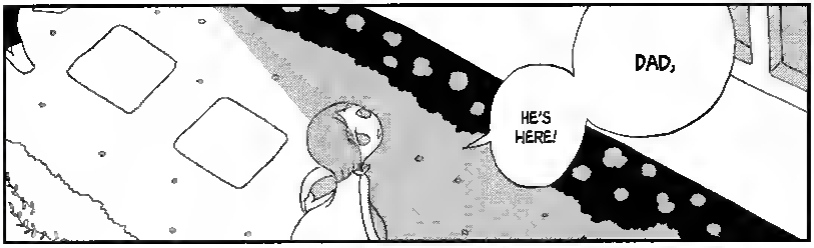

Yam
I slipped and lopped off my finger, and everyone freaked out.

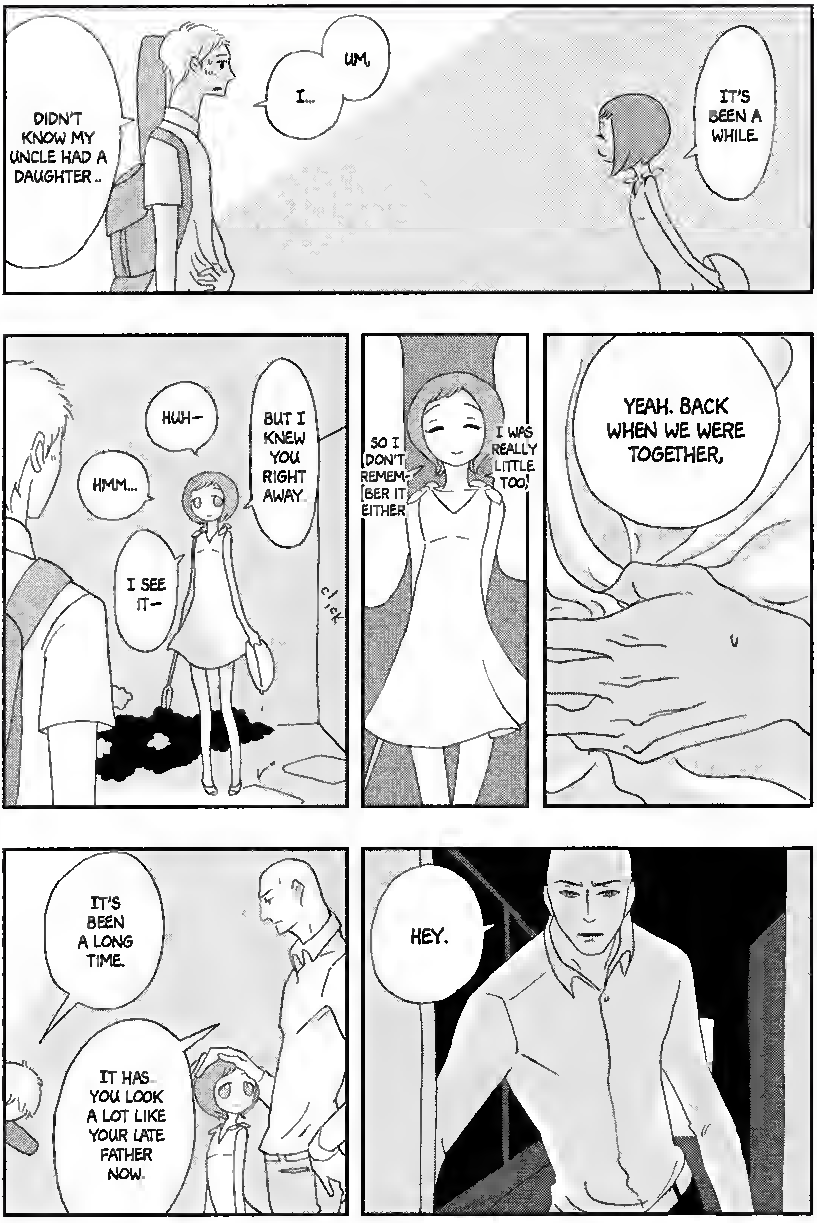
THANKS, SATSUKI
I thought that it'd look cooler if I could put a star at the center of it.

...OR SO
I'VE BEEN TOLD,
BUT I DON'T REALLY
REMEMBER IT WELL.
I WONDER IF I EVER
DID FINISH OFF
THAT STAR?


OH.

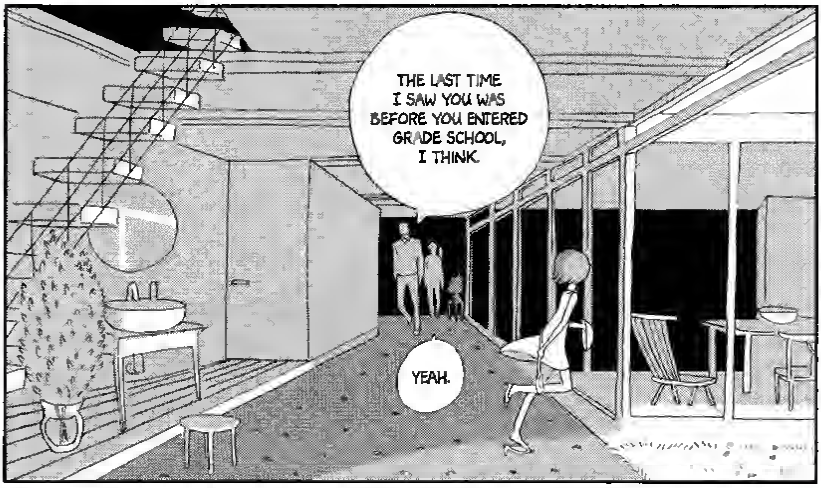
SP
LASH

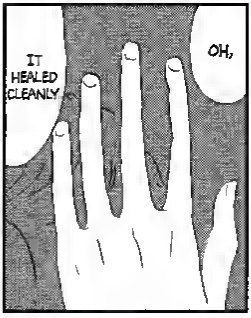

DAD,
HE'S
HERE!


DIDN'T KNOW MY UNCLE HAD A DAUGHTER..
UM, I...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HUH—
HMM...
BUT I KNEW YOU RIGHT AWAY.
I SEE IT—
click
SO I DON'T REMEMBER IT EITHER
I WAS REALLY LITTLE TOO.
YEAH. BACK WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER,
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
IT HAS YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE YOUR LATE FATHER NOW.
HEY.

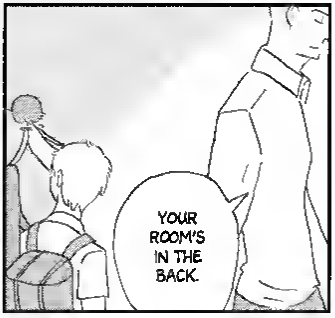
ANYWAY, DON'T BE SO RESERVED COME ON IN.
I STARTED SHAVING IT RECENTLY.
Phew
OK.

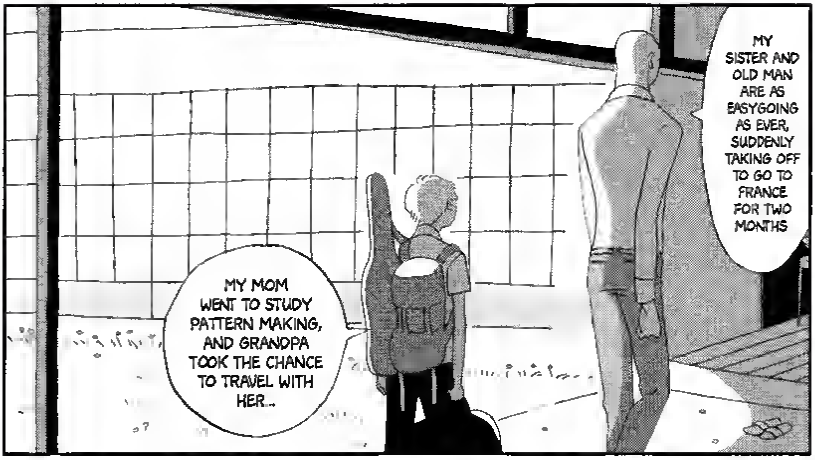
UM,
IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH YOUR OWN DIFFICULTIES NOW...
IS IT REALLY OK FOR ME TO STAY HERE?

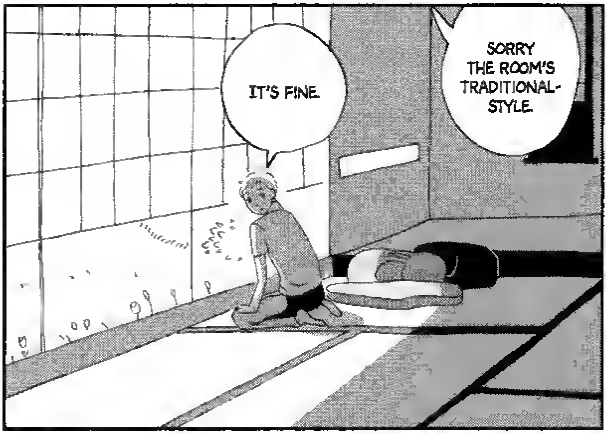

THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU WAS BEFORE YOU ENTERED GRADE SCHOOL, I THINK.
YEAH.


OH,
IT HEALED CLEANLY.

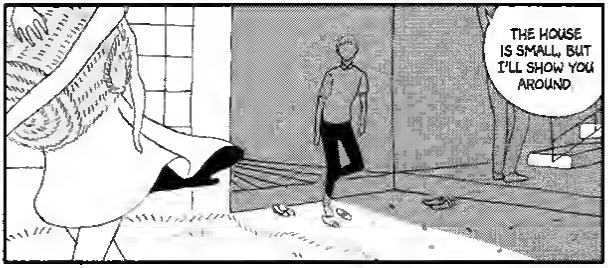
THAT'S RIGHT, HOW'S YOUR LEFT RING FINGER?


YOUR ROOM'S IN THE BACK.

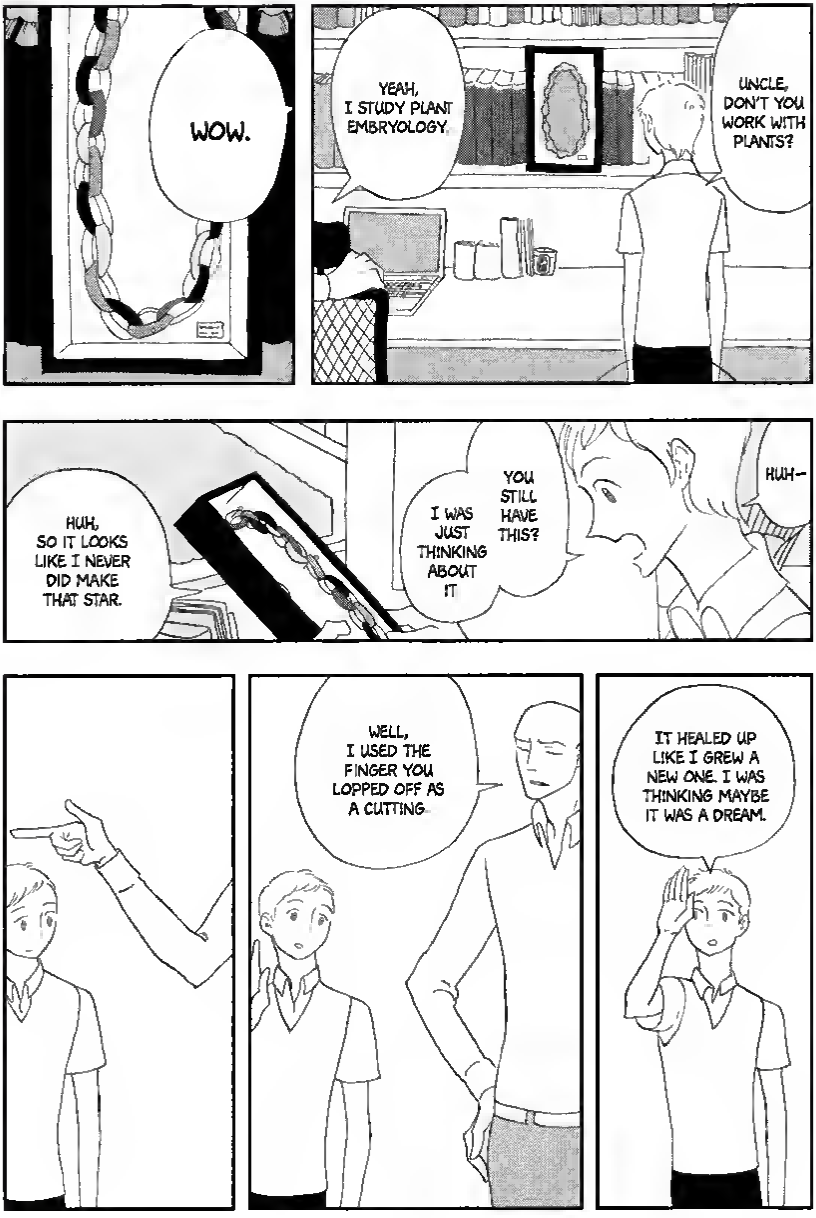

MY SISTER AND OLD MAN ARE AS EASYGOING AS EVER, SUDDENLY TAKING OFF TO GO TO FRANCE FOR TWO MONTHS
MY MOM WENT TO STUDY PATTERN MAKING, AND GRANDPA TOOK THE CHANCE TO TRAVEL WITH HER...

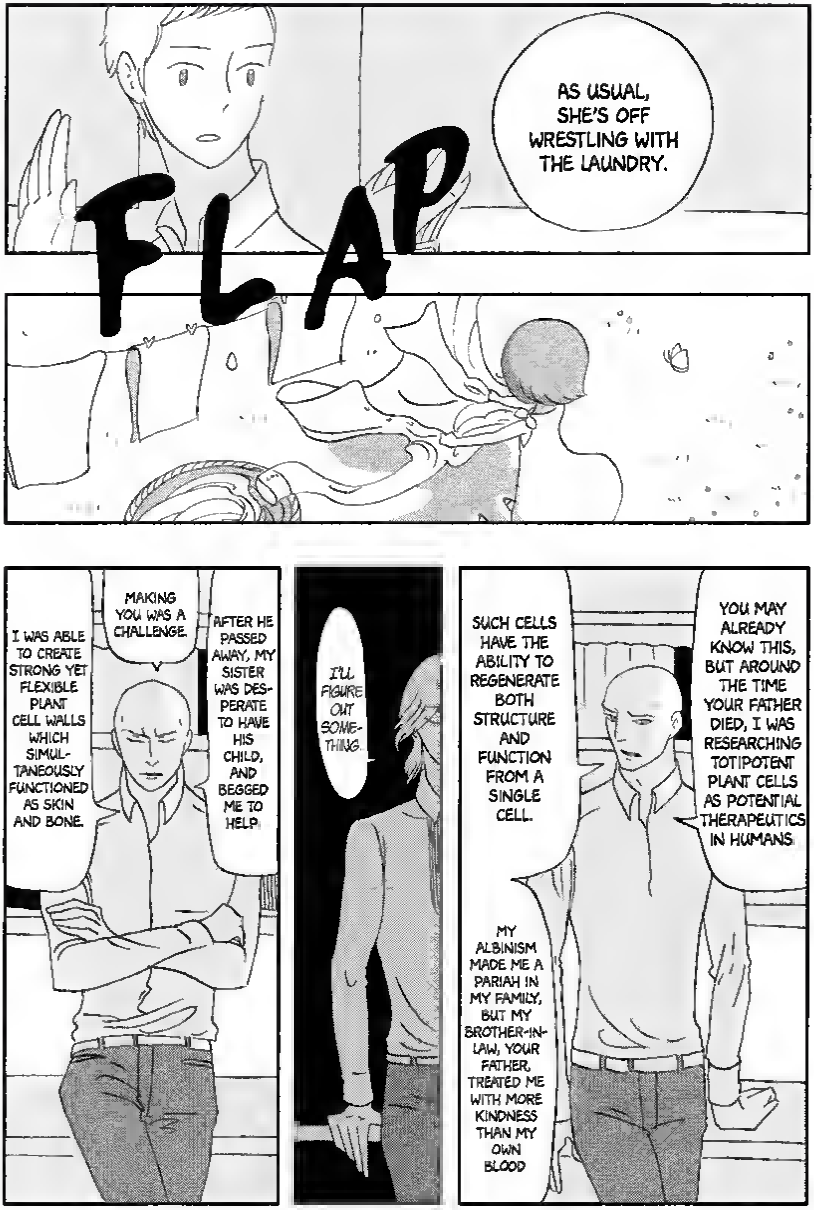

SORRY THE ROOM'S TRADITIONAL-STYLE.
IT'S FINE.

SO I HEARD.
THOSE SANDALS ARE FOR YOU.


THE HOUSE IS SMALL, BUT I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.

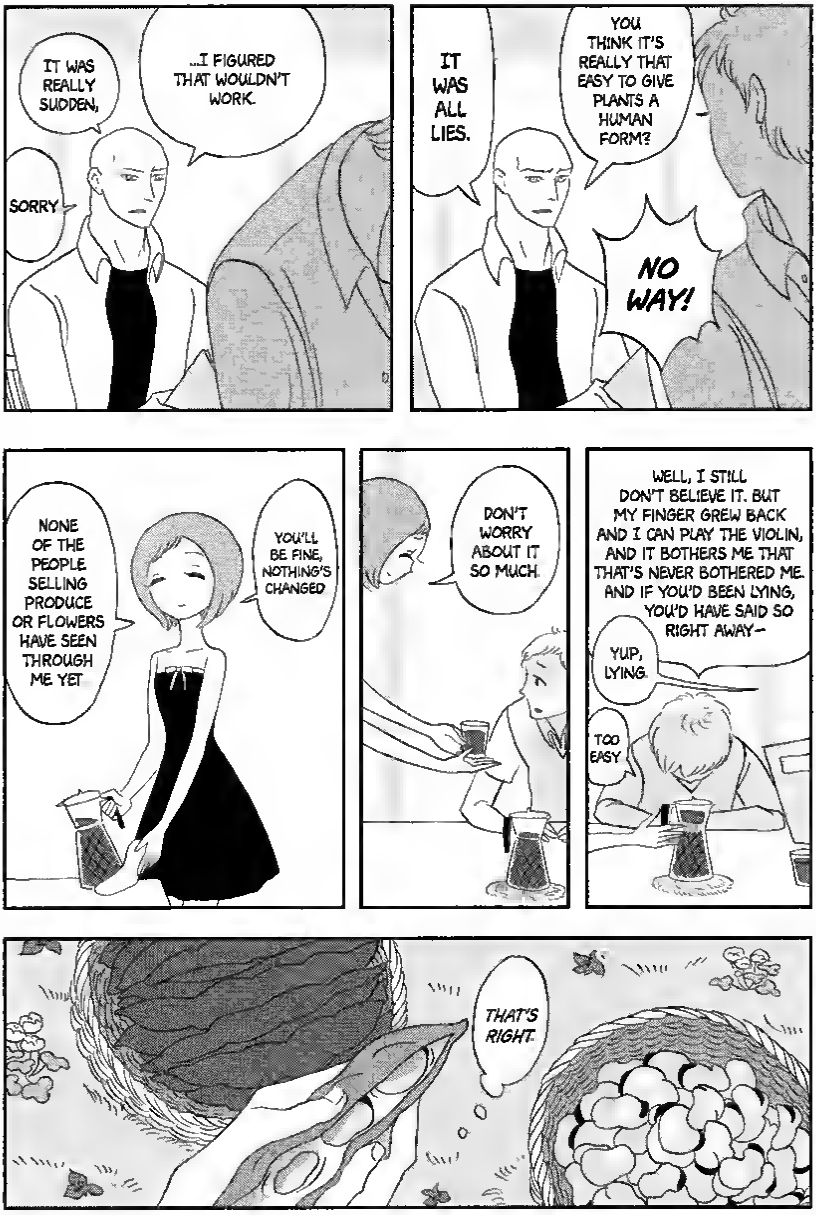
ARE YOU LIVING AS A HUMAN OK?
WHEN'S SUMMER VACATION START?
HUH?
UM, I GUESS SO
NEXT WEEK...
THIS IS MY OFFICE.
YEAH.
SO SHE'S TSU-TSU-JI
AND THAT'S TSUTSUJI'S ROOM.

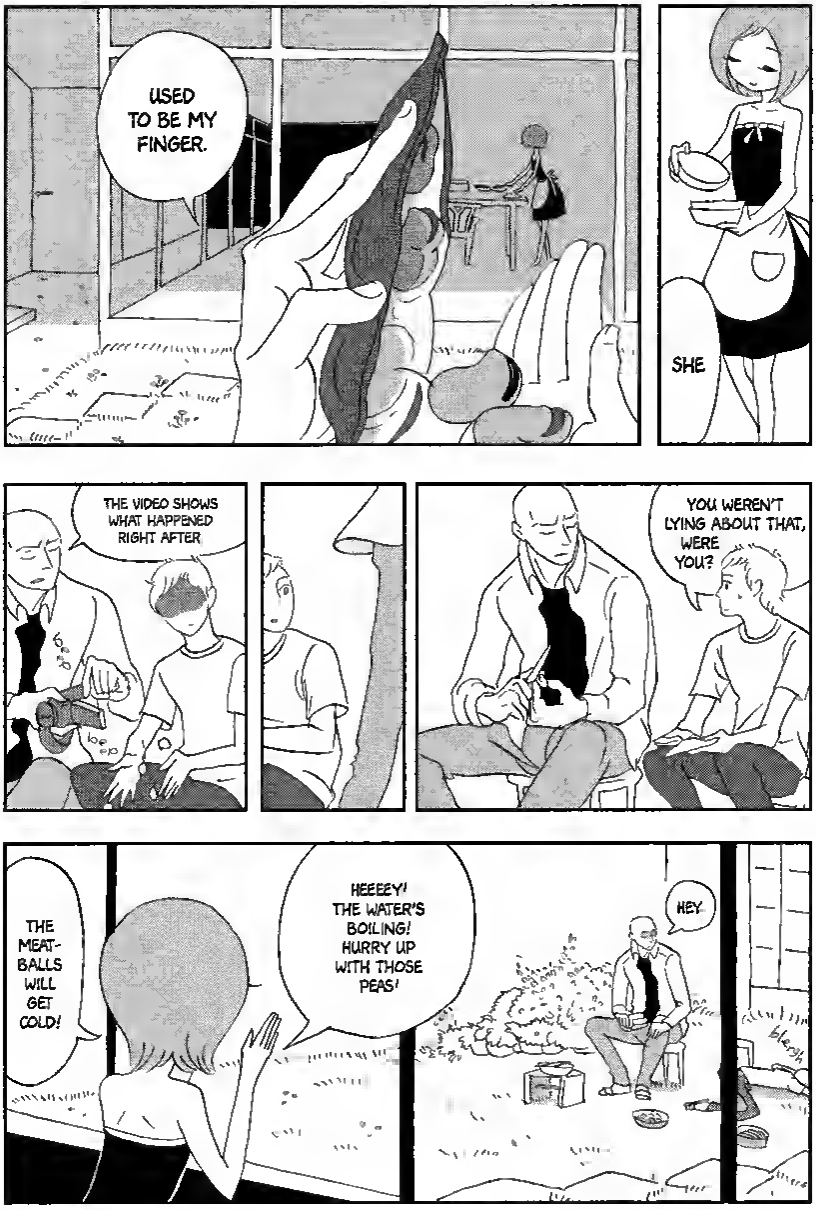

WOW.
YEAH, I STUDY PLANT EMBRYOLOGY.
UNCLE, DON'T YOU WORK WITH PLANTS?
HUH, SO IT LOOKS LIKE I NEVER DID MAKE THAT STAR.
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT
YOU STILL HAVE THIS?
HUH-
WELL, I USED THE FINGER YOU LOPPED OFF AS A CUTTING
IT HEALED UP LIKE I GREW A NEW ONE. I WAS THINKING MAYBE IT WAS A DREAM.

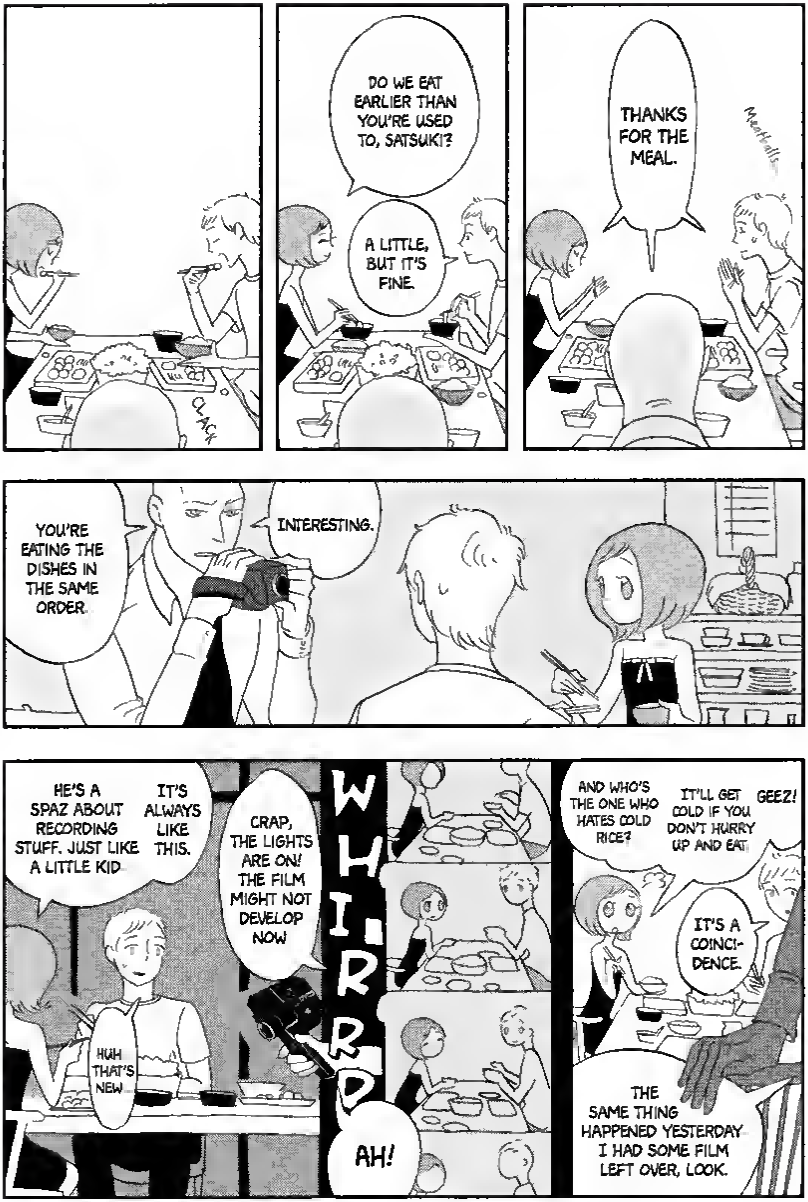

AS USUAL, SHE'S OFF WRESTLING WITH THE LAUNDRY.
FLAP
YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW THIS, BUT AROUND THE TIME YOUR FATHER DIED, I WAS RESEARCHING TOTIPOTENT PLANT CELLS AS POTENTIAL THERAPEUTICS IN HUMANS.
SUCH CELLS HAVE THE ABILITY TO REGENERATE BOTH STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION FROM A SINGLE CELL.
MY ALBINISM MADE ME A PARIAH IN MY FAMILY, BUT MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, YOUR FATHER, TREATED ME WITH MORE KINDNESS THAN MY OWN BLOOD
I'LL FIGURE OUT SOME-THING.
I WAS ABLE TO CREATE STRONG YET FLEXIBLE PLANT CELL WALLS WHICH SIMUL-TANEOUSLY FUNCTIONED AS SKIN AND BONE.
MAKING YOU WAS A CHALLENGE.
AFTER HE PASSED AWAY, MY SISTER WAS DES-PERATE TO HAVE HIS CHILD, AND BEGGED ME TO HELP.

DELICATE PROTOPLASTS INDUCED ADHESION AND TOTIPOTENT CELLS GAVE RISE TO A NORMAL DIGESTIVE TRACT. I SEARCHED FOR A DNA REPOSITORY, BUT DURING A BREAK I FINALLY REALIZED THAT EARTHWORMS—
HEY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT SOUNDED REALLY IMPORTANT.
HEY.
THE MAIN BATHROOM'S OVER THERE, AND THERE'S A HALF BATH DOWNSTAIRS.
YOU HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF A HUMAN, BUT...
UNCLE,
WAIT!
WELL, CRAP.
SHE PROMISED SHE'D TELL YOU BEFORE SENDING YOU OVER.
DID SHE FORGET, OR WAS IT ON PURPOSE?

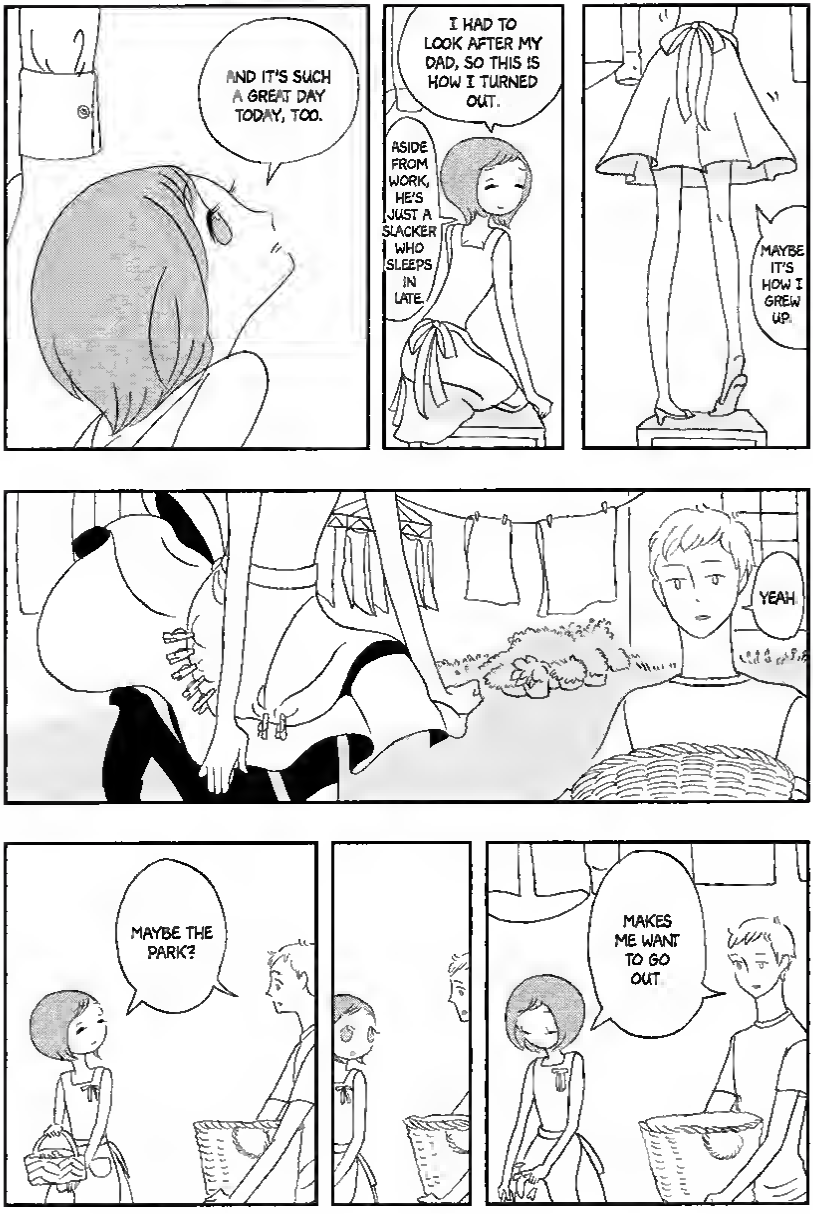
THEY'RE PRACTICALLY GLEAMING, CAPTAIN. WHY NOT TAKE A BREAK?
BUT NO GREEN TINGE?
HUH?
YOU LOOK PALE.
GARDENIN
THEN I'M OK.
Is he really OK?
Something up with the captain?
I'VE BEEN BUSY WORRYING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I STAY IN THE SUN TOO LONG OR DRINK TOO MUCH WATER OR WHATEVER, AND THEN SUDDENLY START HEARING THE VOICE OF THE FOREST
TELLING ME TO PROTECT THE ENVI-RONMENT OR SOME-THING
YOU MUST'VE BEEN BROUGHT UP TO THINK THAT YOU HAVE A HUGE CAPACITY FOR EVOLUTION.
HI.
LOOKS LIKE TAKING THE BUS WORKED OUT.
YEAH.
ANY-WAY,
THOUGH IT TAKES AN HOUR LONGER THAN BEFORE.
HI,
I'M BACK.

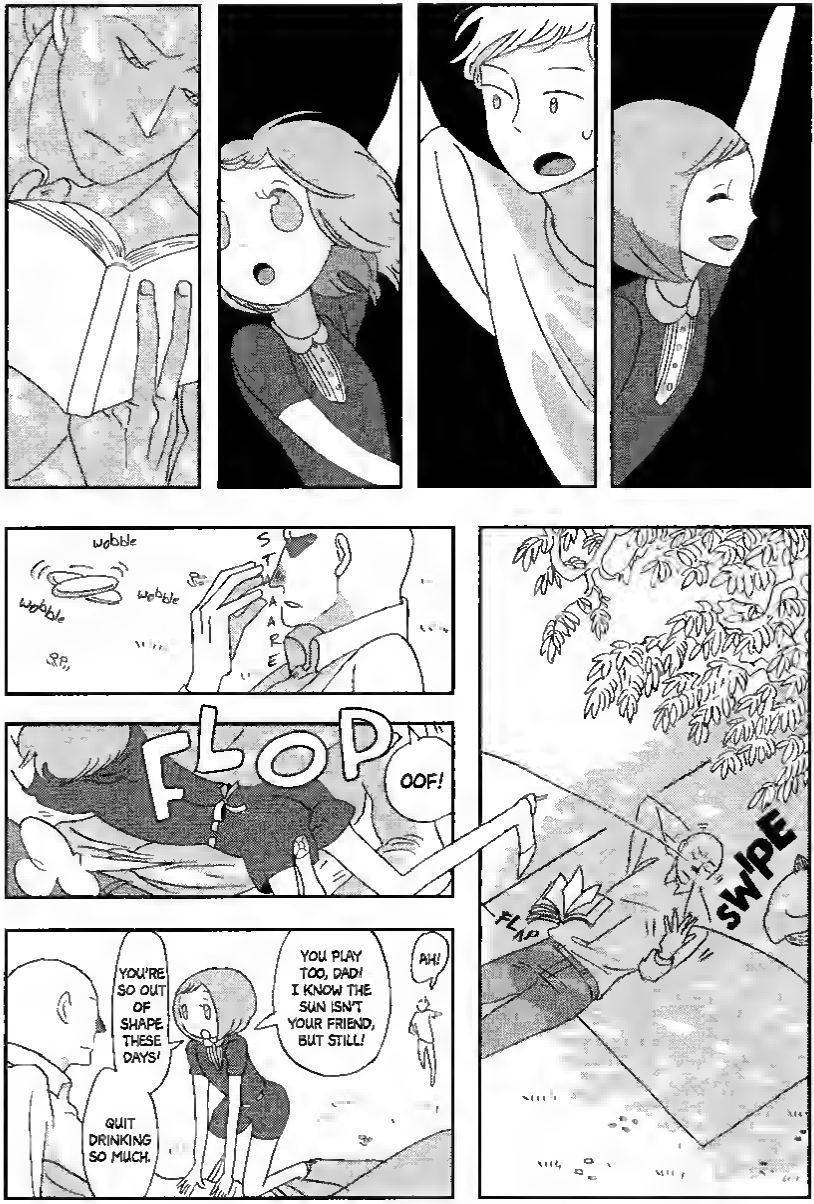

IT WAS REALLY SUDDEN,
...I FIGURED THAT WOULDN'T WORK.
SORRY
IT WAS ALL LIES.
YOU THINK IT'S REALLY THAT EASY TO GIVE PLANTS A HUMAN FORM?
NO WAY!
NONE OF THE PEOPLE SELLING PRODUCE OR FLOWERS HAVE SEEN THROUGH ME YET
YOU'LL BE FINE, NOTHING'S CHANGED
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH.
WELL, I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT. BUT MY FINGER GREW BACK AND I CAN PLAY THE VIOLIN, AND IT BOTHERS ME THAT THAT'S NEVER BOTHERED ME. AND IF YOU'D BEEN LYING, YOU'D HAVE SAID SO RIGHT AWAY—
YUP, LYING.
TOO EASY
THAT'S RIGHT.

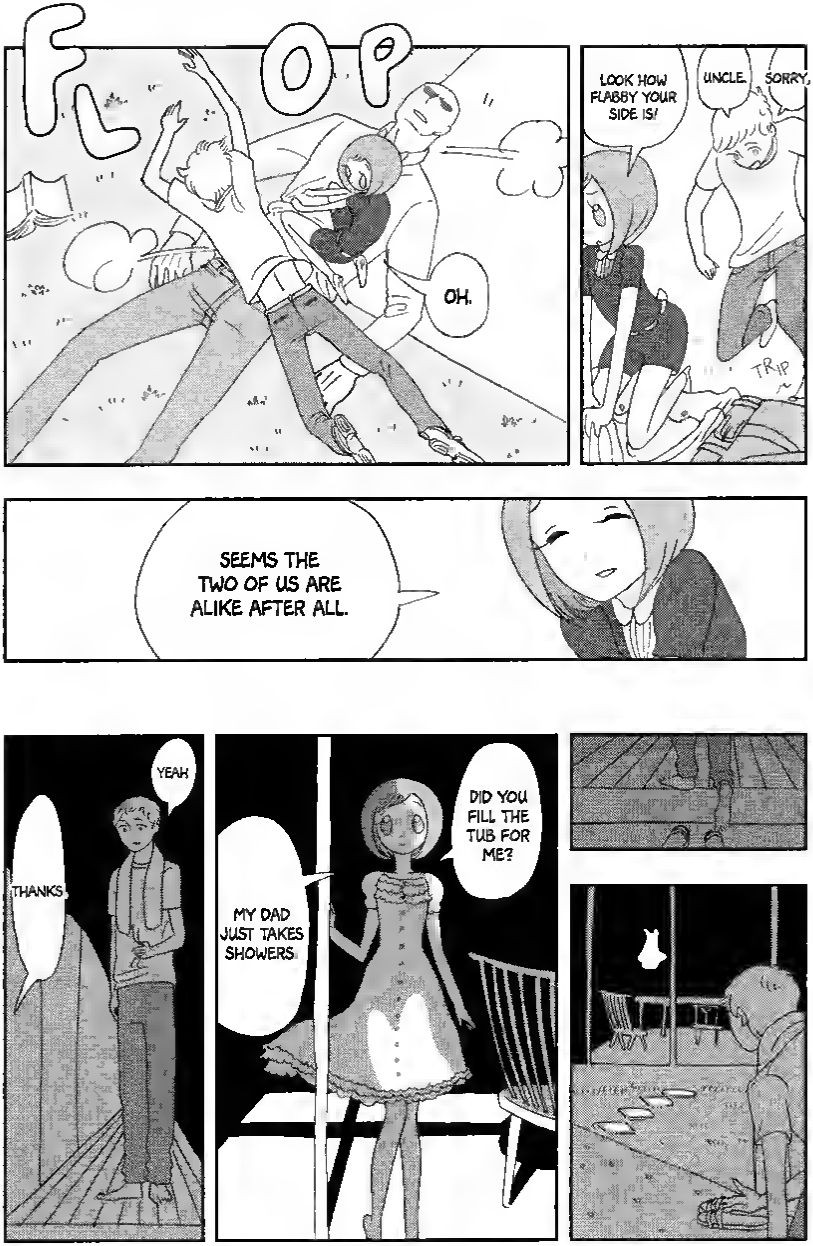

USED TO BE MY FINGER.
SHE
THE VIDEO SHOWS WHAT HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER
YOU WEREN'T LYING ABOUT THAT, WERE YOU?
THE MEAT-BALLS WILL GET COLD!
HEEEEY! THE WATER'S BOILING! HURRY UP WITH THOSE PEAS!
HEY.

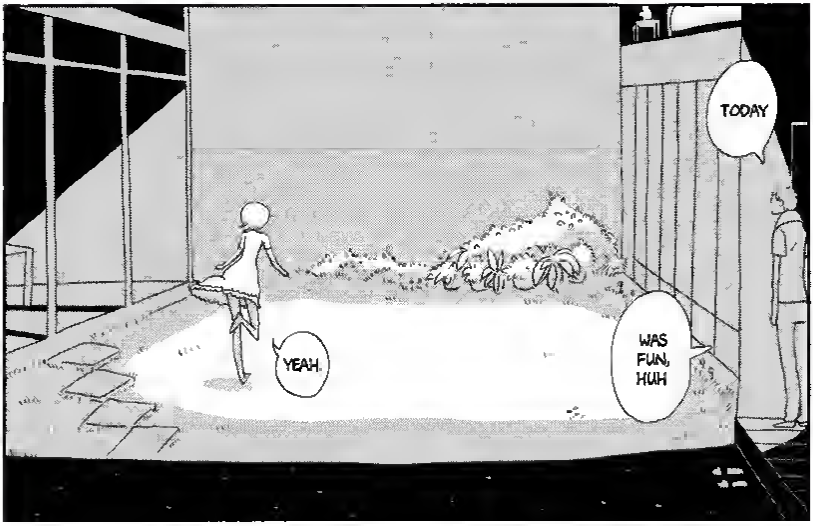

CLACK
DO WE EAT EARLIER THAN YOU'RE USED TO, SATSUKI?
A LITTLE, BUT IT'S FINE.
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
Mwahhh
YOU'RE EATING THE DISHES IN THE SAME ORDER.
INTERESTING.
HE'S A SPAZ ABOUT RECORDING STUFF. JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID.
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
HUH THAT'S NEW
CRAP, THE LIGHTS ARE ON! THE FILM MIGHT NOT DEVELOP NOW
WHIRRD
AH!
AND WHO'S THE ONE WHO HATES COLD RICE?
IT'LL GET COLD IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND EAT.
GEEZ!
IT'S A COINCI-DENCE.
THE SAME THING HAPPENED YESTERDAY I HAD SOME FILM LEFT OVER, LOOK.

I'VE BEEN UP EARLY EVER SINCE I CAME HERE, SO I JUST GOT INTO THE HABIT.
IT'S A GOOD THING
NO SCHOOL, BUT YOU'RE UP EARLY
I WISH DAD WOULD FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE ON DAYS HE DOESN'T TEACH
MORNING!
YOU SUPPOSEDLY GREW FROM MY FINGER, BUT YOU'RE WAY MORE RESPONSIBLE THAN I AM.
SEEMS WE'RE NOTHING ALIKE.
TSU-TSUJI,
SCHOOL, YEAH
IS SCHOOL FUN?
THE ROLLS ARE BETTER WHEN YOU BAKE THEM YOURSELF
OH?

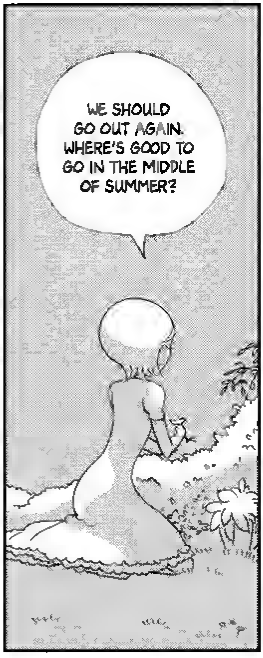

AND IT'S SUCH A GREAT DAY TODAY, TOO.
I HAD TO LOOK AFTER MY DAD, SO THIS IS HOW I TURNED OUT.
ASIDE FROM WORK, HE'S JUST A SLACKER WHO SLEEPS IN LATE.
MAYBE IT'S HOW I GREW UP.
YEAH
MAYBE THE PARK?
MAKES ME WANT TO GO OUT


wobble
wobble
wobble
STARE
FLOP
OOF!
SWIPE
FLAP
YOU'RE SO OUT OF SHAPE THESE DAYS!
QUIT DRINKING SO MUCH.
YOU PLAY TOO, DAD! I KNOW THE SUN ISN'T YOUR FRIEND, BUT STILL!
AH!

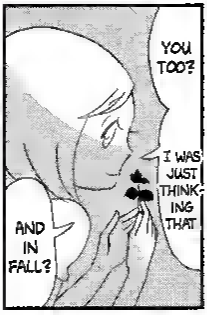

FLOP
OH.
LOOK HOW FLABBY YOUR SIDE IS!
UNCLE.
SORRY.
TRIP
SEEMS THE TWO OF US ARE ALIKE AFTER ALL.
YEAH.
THANKS
MY DAD JUST TAKES SHOWERS.
DID YOU FILL THE TUB FOR ME?


TODAY
WAS FUN, HUH
YEAH.

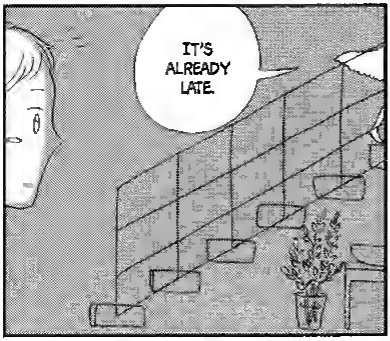
MAYBE THE BEACH.


WE SHOULD GO OUT AGAIN. WHERE'S GOOD TO GO IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER?

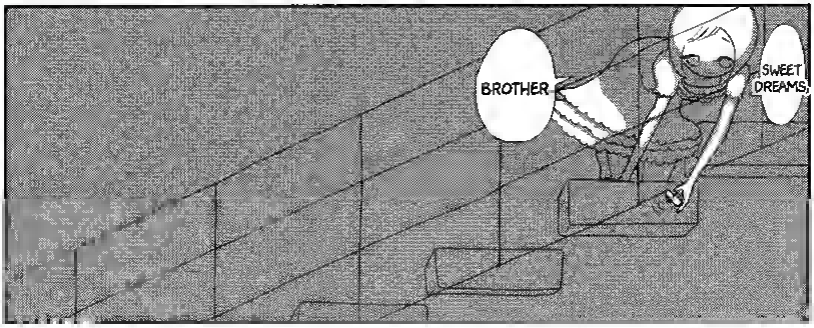
I HAVEN'T SEEN MY DAD RUN AROUND LIKE THAT IN A WHILE.

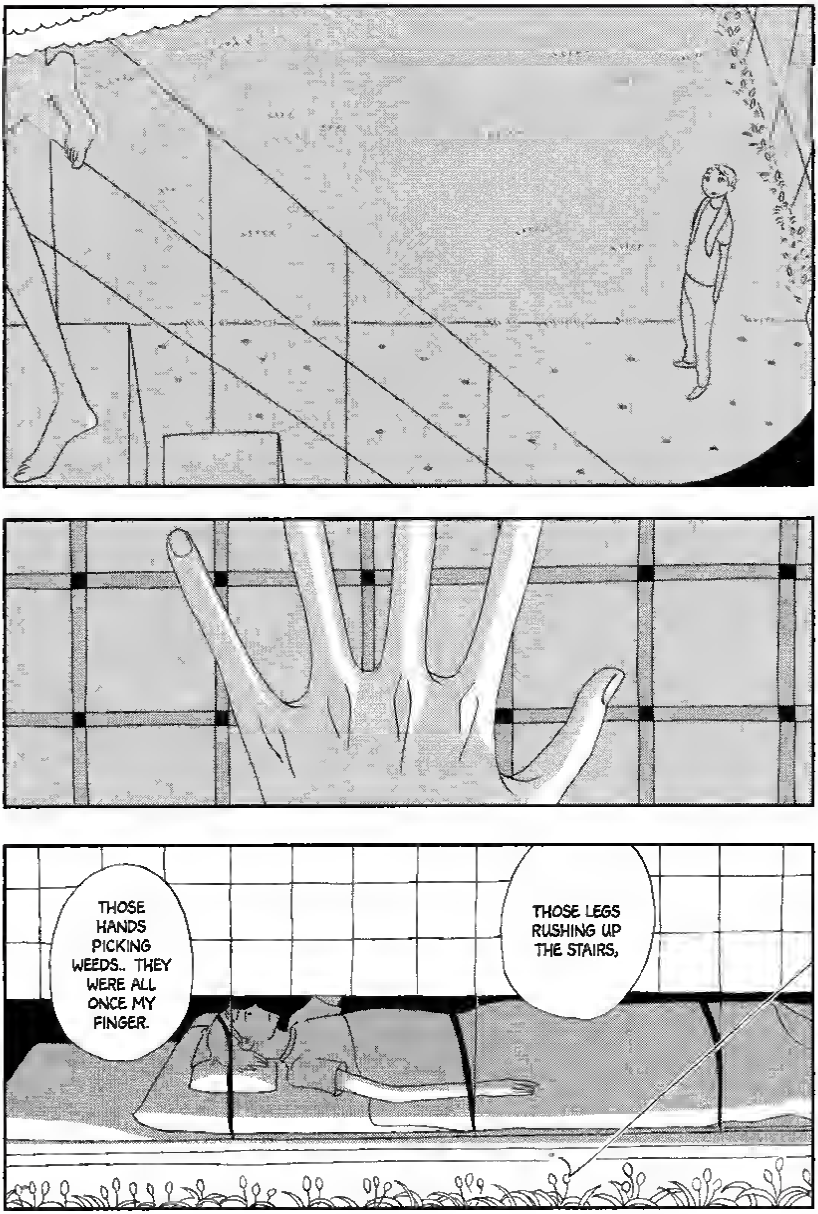

YOU, TOO?
I WAS JUST THINK-ING THAT
AND IN FALL?

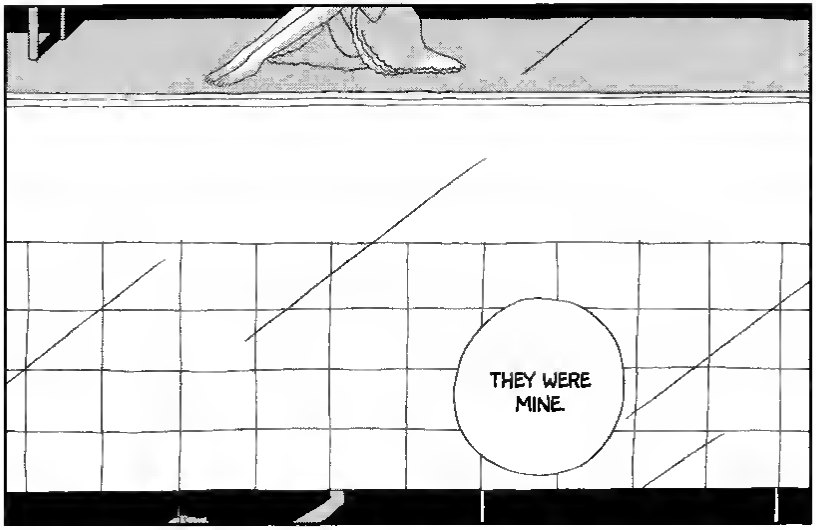
HOW ABOUT WE STUDY THE STARS? MY DAD'LL LET US HAVE A LITTLE MULLED WINE.
IT TASTES LIKE STARS BURNING.
THEN
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
WINTER... THAT'S TOUGH
WHAT ABOUT WINTER?
SAME HERE!
WE'RE LIKE TWINS.
A CAMPUS ROSE GARDEN?

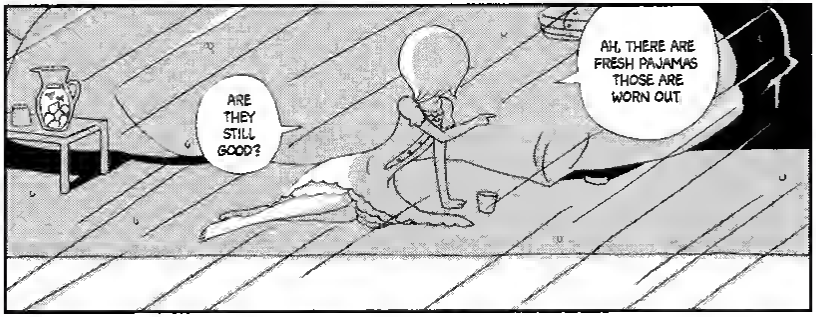

IT'S ALREADY LATE.

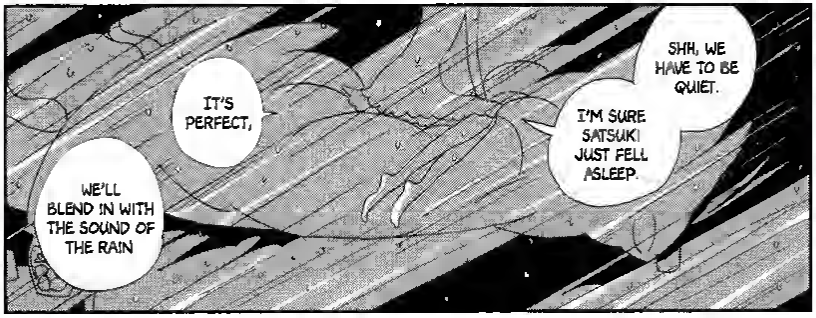
ph
ew
ANY-WAY,

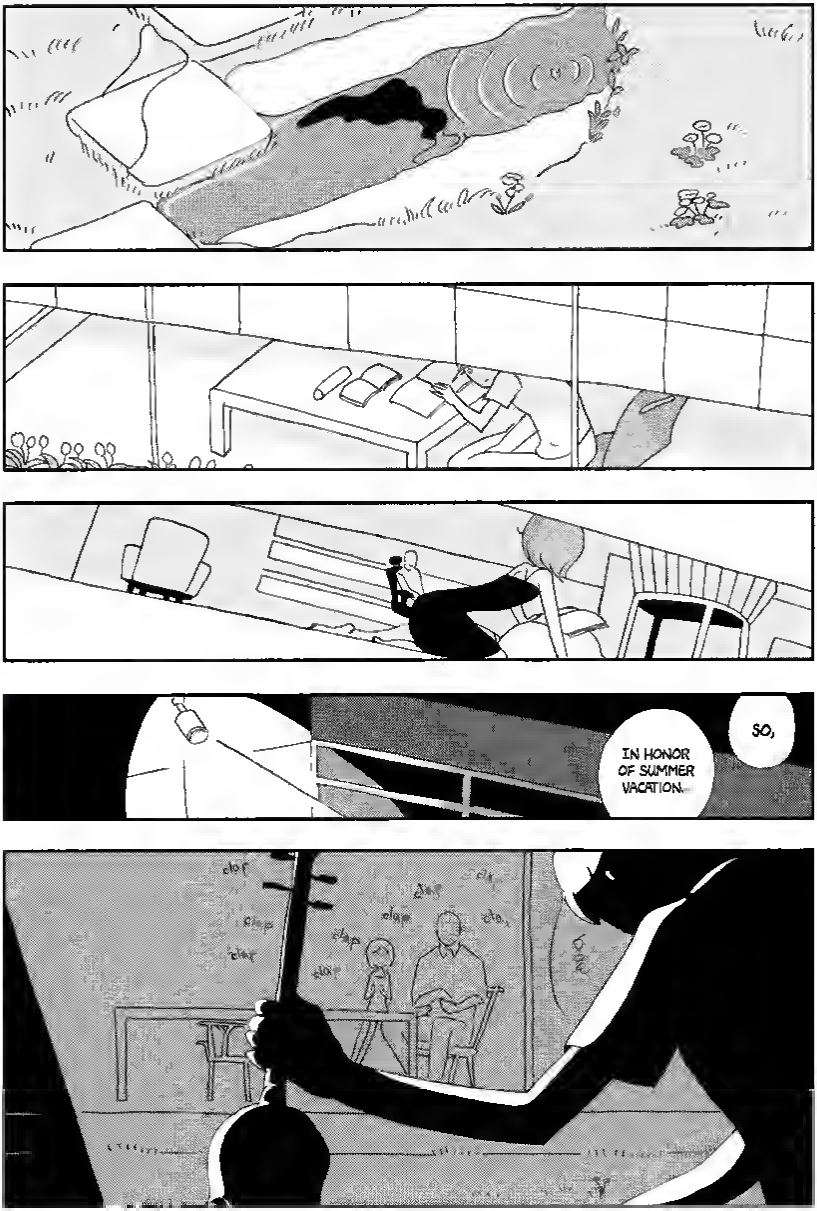

BROTHER
SWEET DREAMS.


THOSE HANDS PICKING WEEDS.. THEY WERE ALL ONCE MY FINGER.
THOSE LEGS RUSHING UP THE STAIRS,


THEY WERE MINE.

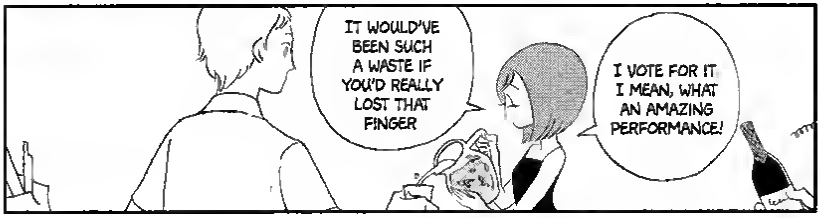

ARE THEY STILL GOOD?
AH, THERE ARE FRESH PAJAMAS THOSE ARE WORN OUT.


IT'S PERFECT,
WE'LL BLEND IN WITH THE SOUND OF THE RAIN
SHH, WE HAVE TO BE QUIET.
I'M SURE SATSUKI JUST FELL ASLEEP.


SO,
IN HONOR OF SUMMER VACATION

clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
bow
THANK YOU.

NO WAY MONTHLY IS WAY TOO MUCH PRESSURE...
HUH?
EXCELLENT. LET'S HAVE A CONCERT EVERY MONTH.

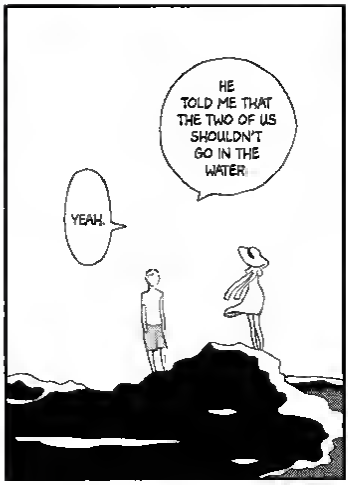

IT WOULD'VE BEEN SUCH A WASTE IF YOU'D REALLY LOST THAT FINGER
I VOTE FOR IT. I MEAN, WHAT AN AMAZING PERFORMANCE!

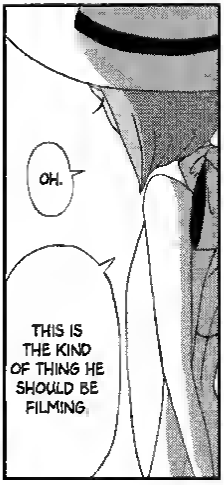
WE ALREADY PICKED!
dazed
RIGHT?

I'M SURE YOU SINGING ALONG WITH SATSUKI WOULD BE AMAZING
I'D LIKE TO LEARN, BUT THIS IS SATSUKI'S VACATION WE SHOULD GO OUT
OH, RIGHT. WHERE TO?

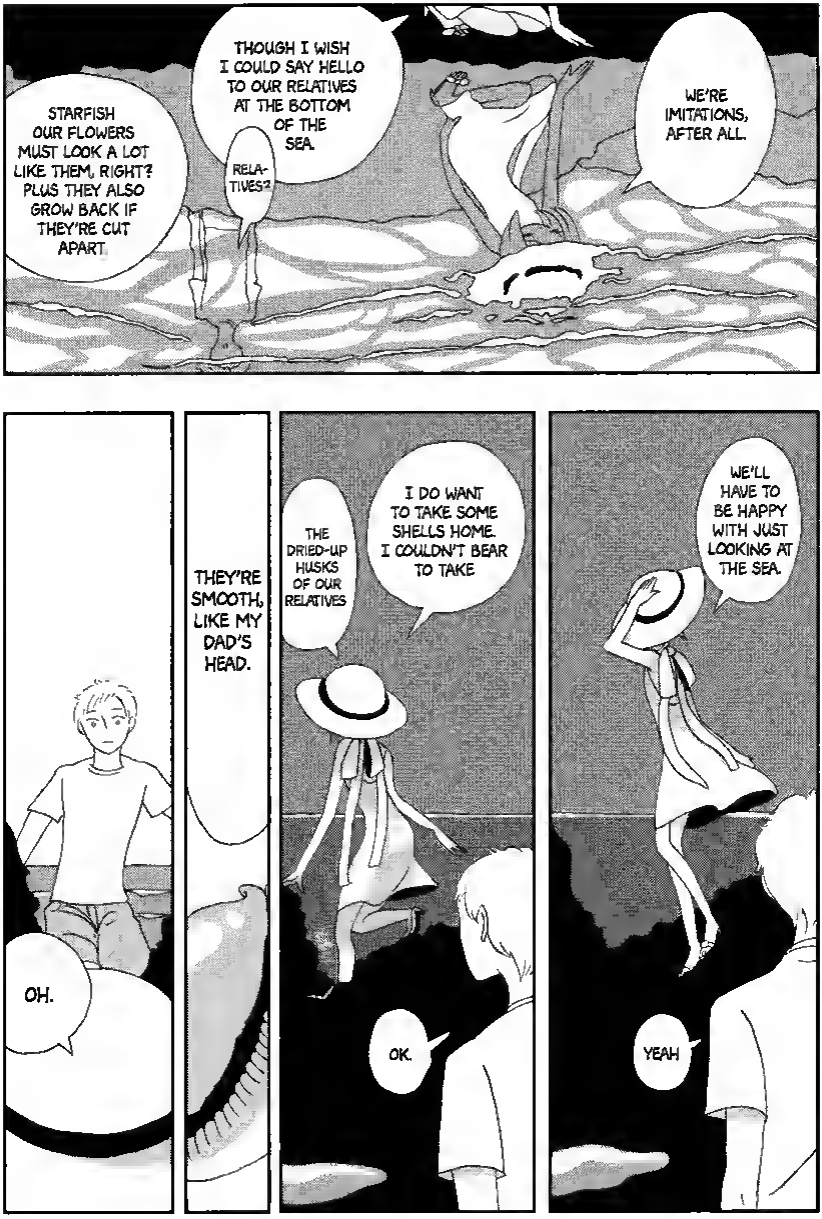
HEY!
NO MORE TODAY
YOU'RE JUST DRINKING BECAUSE IT'S HERE.
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE GOTTEN YOU SINGING LESSONS OR SOMETHING, TOO
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

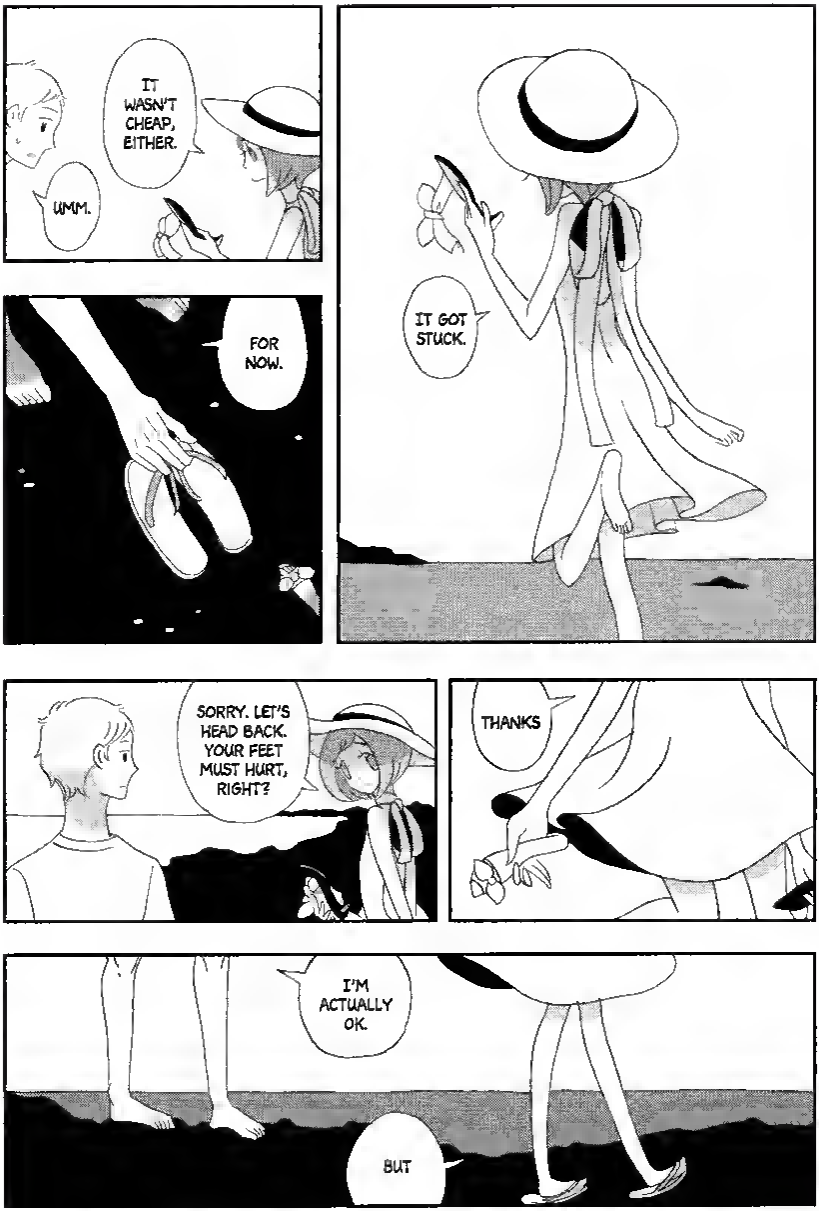
WHERE'S MY DAD?


HE TOLD ME THAT THE TWO OF US SHOULDN'T GO IN THE WATER.
YEAH.

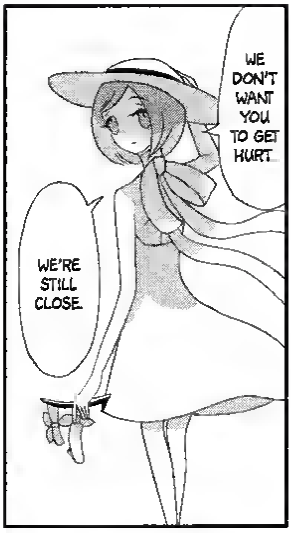

OH.
THIS IS THE KIND OF THING HE SHOULD BE FILMING.

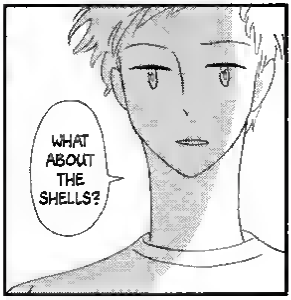
HE SAID HE'LL WATCH OUR BAGS

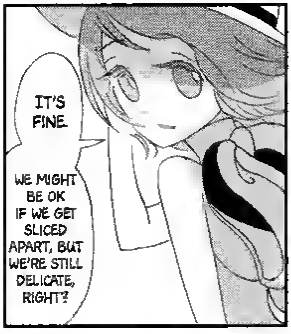

STARFISH OUR FLOWERS MUST LOOK A LOT LIKE THEM, RIGHT? PLUS THEY ALSO GROW BACK IF THEY'RE CUT APART.
THOUGH I WISH I COULD SAY HELLO TO OUR RELATIVES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.
RELA-TIVES?
WE'RE IMITATIONS, AFTER ALL.
OH.
THEY'RE SMOOTH, LIKE MY DAD'S HEAD.
THE DRIED-UP HUSKS OF OUR RELATIVES
I DO WANT TO TAKE SOME SHELLS HOME. I COULDN'T BEAR TO TAKE
OK.
WE'LL HAVE TO BE HAPPY WITH JUST LOOKING AT THE SEA.
YEAH

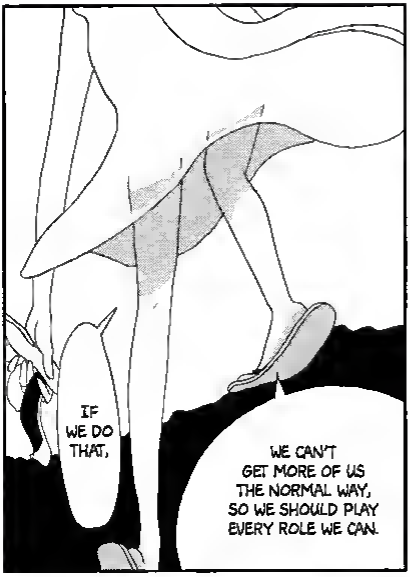

IT WASN'T CHEAP, EITHER.
UMM.
IT GOT STUCK.
FOR NOW.
SORRY. LET'S HEAD BACK. YOUR FEET MUST HURT, RIGHT?
THANKS
I'M ACTUALLY OK.
BUT

YEAH, IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US IN THIS WORLD.


WE DON'T WANT YOU TO GET HURT.
WE'RE STILL CLOSE.

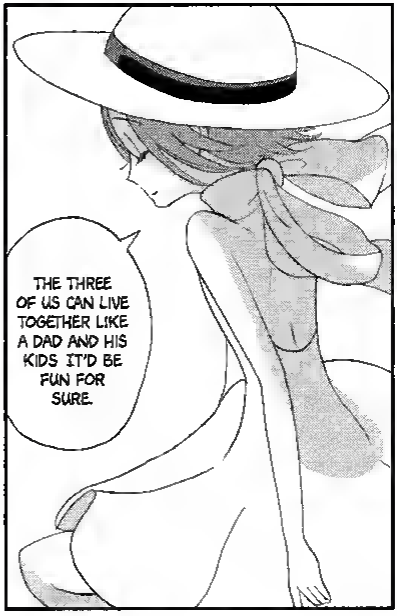

WHAT ABOUT THE SHELLS?


IT'S FINE.
WE MIGHT BE OK IF WE GET SLICED APART, BUT WE'RE STILL DELICATE, RIGHT?

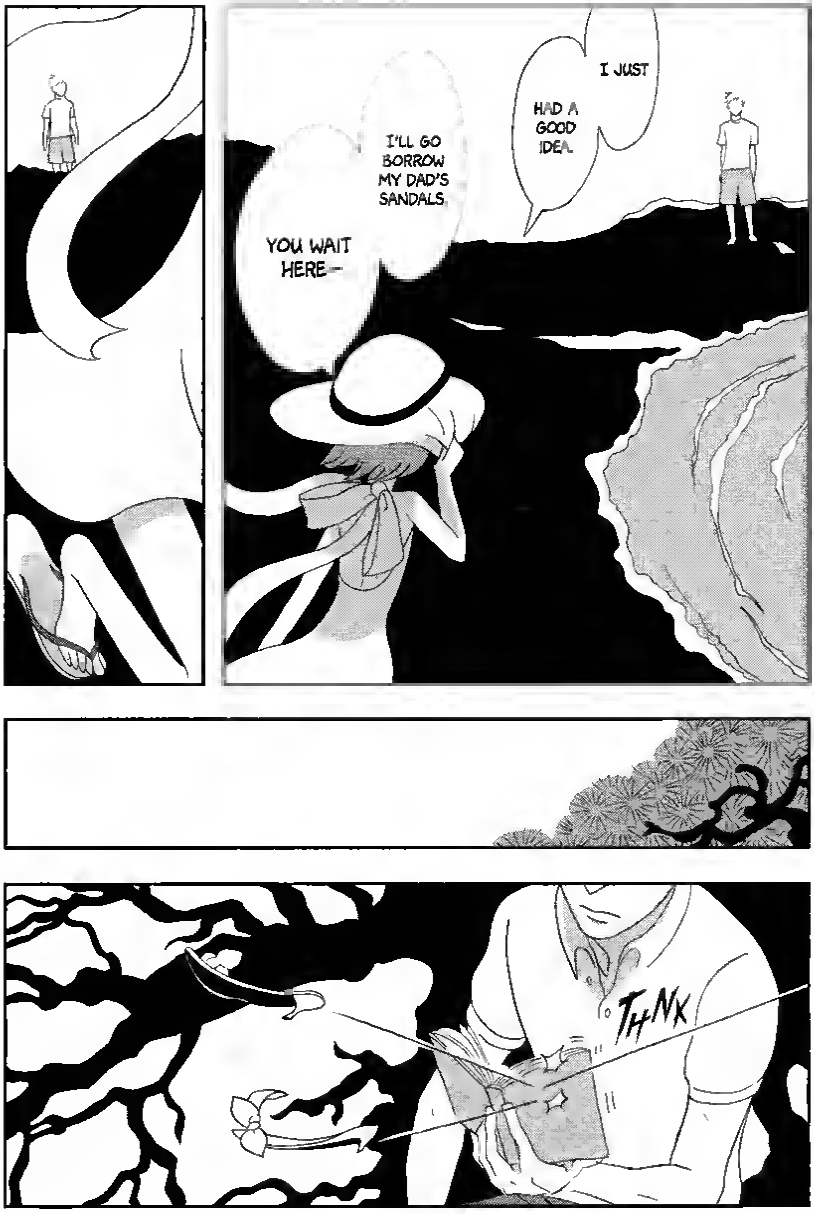

IF WE DO THAT,
WE CAN'T GET MORE OF US THE NORMAL WAY, SO WE SHOULD PLAY EVERY ROLE WE CAN.

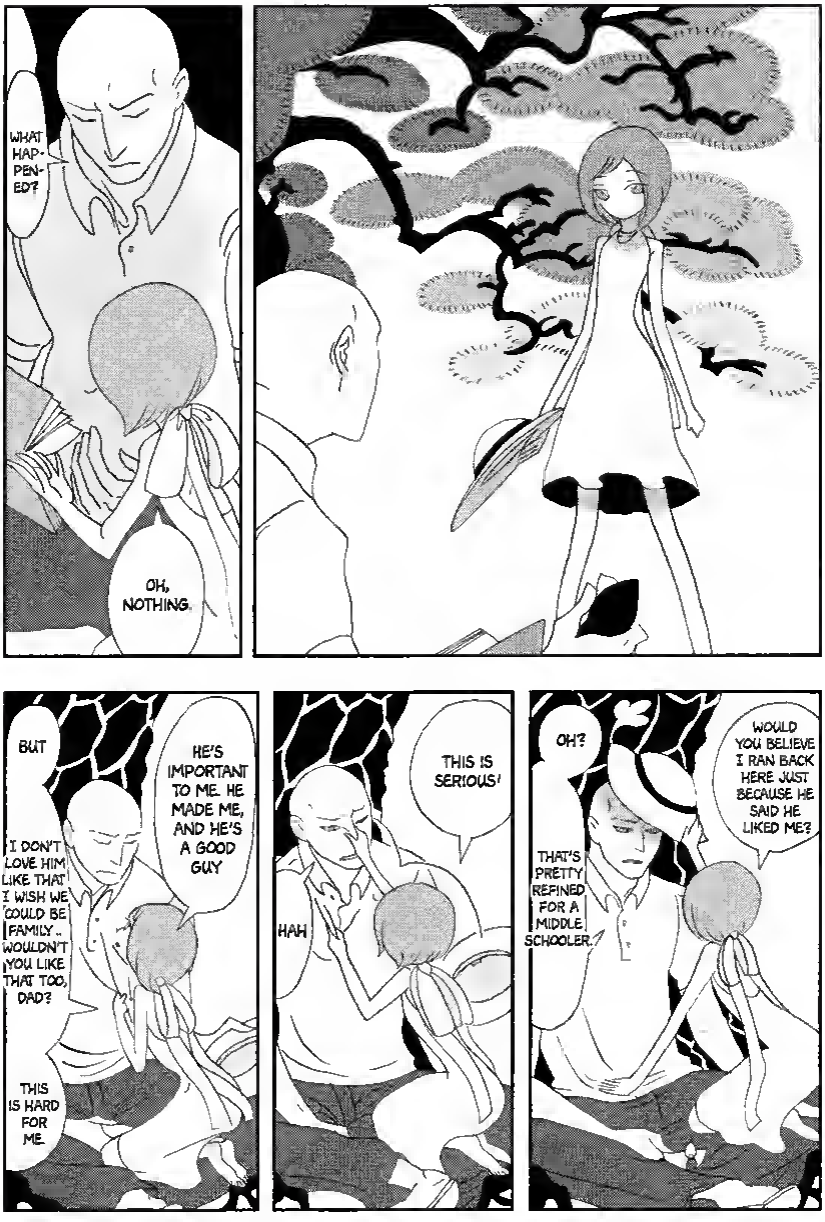
I...
REALLY DO THINK IT'D BE NICE TO BE TWINS, SATSUKI. YOU'D BE THE NICE BROTHER WHO'D ALWAYS PLAY WITH ME.

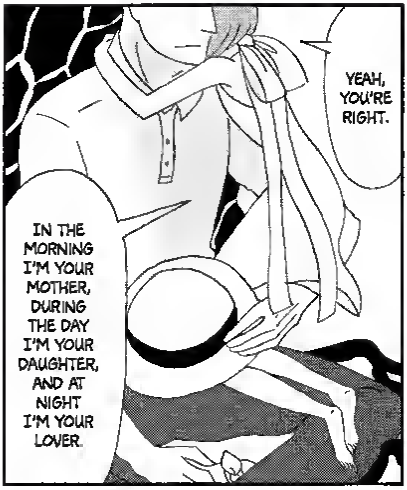
THERE ARE PEOPLE FAR OFF
PHEW, STILL THERE.
I WANT TO BE TOGETHER WITH YOU AGAIN.

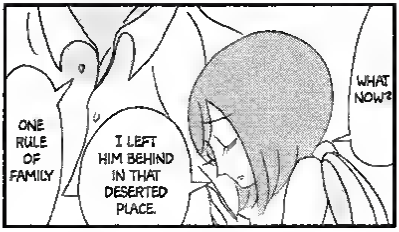

THE THREE OF US CAN LIVE TOGETHER LIKE A DAD AND HIS KIDS IT'D BE FUN FOR SURE.

SO I CAN'T TAKE ON THE ROLE OF YOUR BROTHER
WHAT WAS THAT?
THE WIND'S TOO STRONG, I CAN'T HEAR YOU AT ALL!


I JUST HAD A GOOD IDEA.
I'LL GO BORROW MY DAD'S SANDALS.
YOU WAIT HERE—
THNK

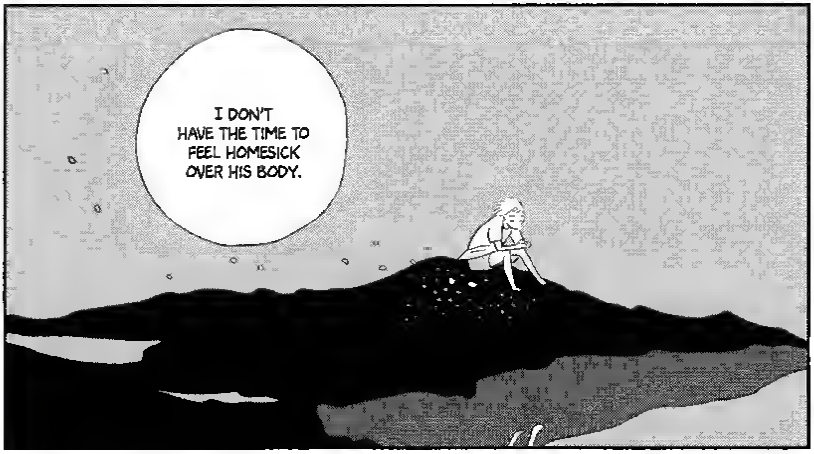

WHAT HAP-PEN-ED?
OH, NOTHING.
WOULD YOU BELIEVE I RAN BACK HERE JUST BECAUSE HE SAID HE LIKED ME?
OH?
THAT'S PRETTY REFINED FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOLER.
THIS IS SERIOUS!
HAH
BUT
I DON'T LOVE HIM LIKE THAT I WISH WE COULD BE FAMILY.. WOULDN'T YOU LIKE THAT TOO, DAD?
HE'S IMPORTANT TO ME. HE MADE ME, AND HE'S A GOOD GUY
THIS IS HARD FOR ME.

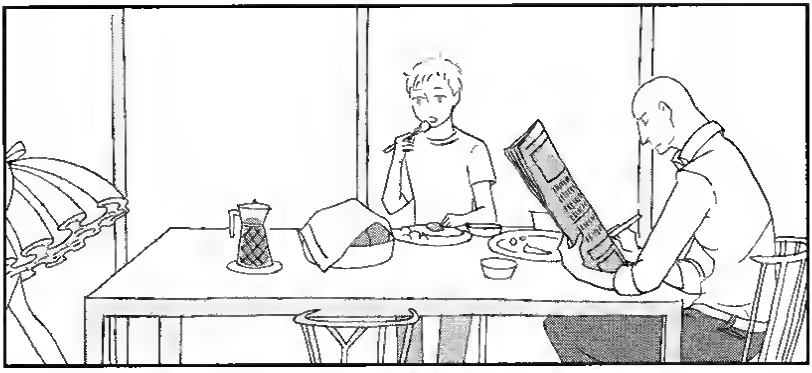

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
IN THE MORNING I'M YOUR MOTHER, DURING THE DAY I'M YOUR DAUGHTER, AND AT NIGHT I'M YOUR LOVER.


WHAT NOW?
I LEFT HIM BEHIND IN THAT DESERTED PLACE.
ONE RULE OF FAMILY

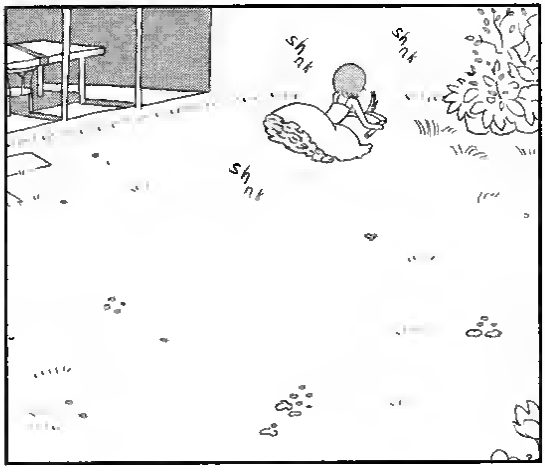
IS THAT YOU HAVE TO GO WELCOME THEM WHEN THEY COME BY
YOU SEEM BUSY, SO MAYBE I'LL GO

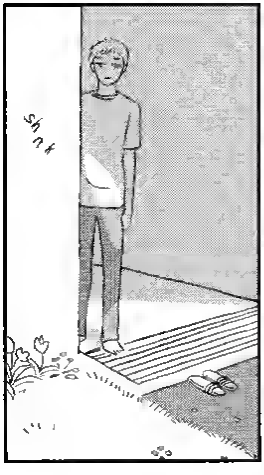
MY DAYS ARE BUSY, FULL OF WORRY AND HAPPINESS.

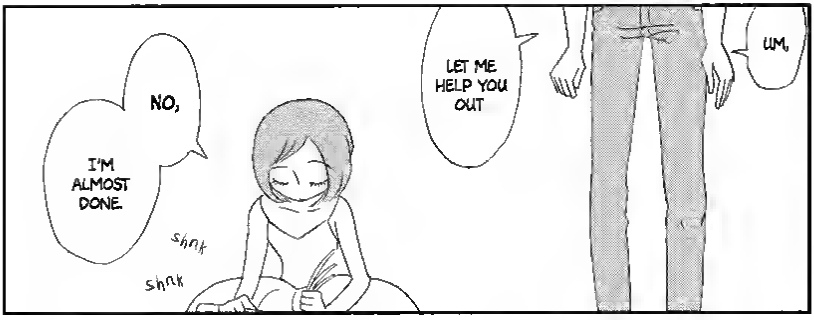

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO FEEL HOMESICK OVER HIS BODY.

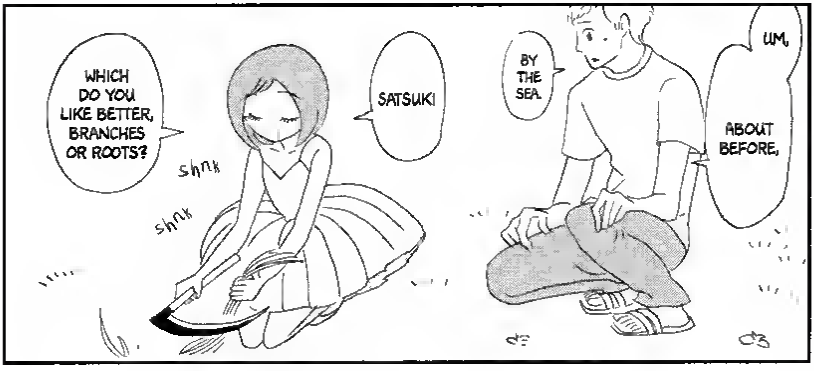


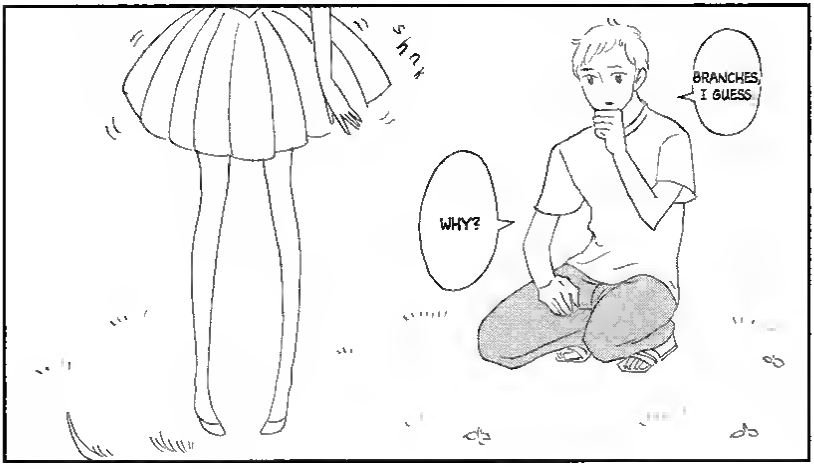
nuh uh
shuh


shuh
shuh
shuh


shuh

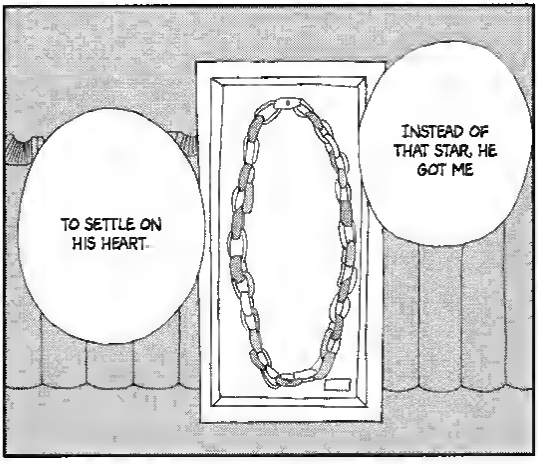

UM,
LET ME HELP YOU OUT
NO,
I'M ALMOST DONE.
shnk
shnk


UM,
ABOUT BEFORE,
BY THE SEA.
SATSUKI
WHICH DO YOU LIKE BETTER, BRANCHES OR ROOTS?
shnk
shnk

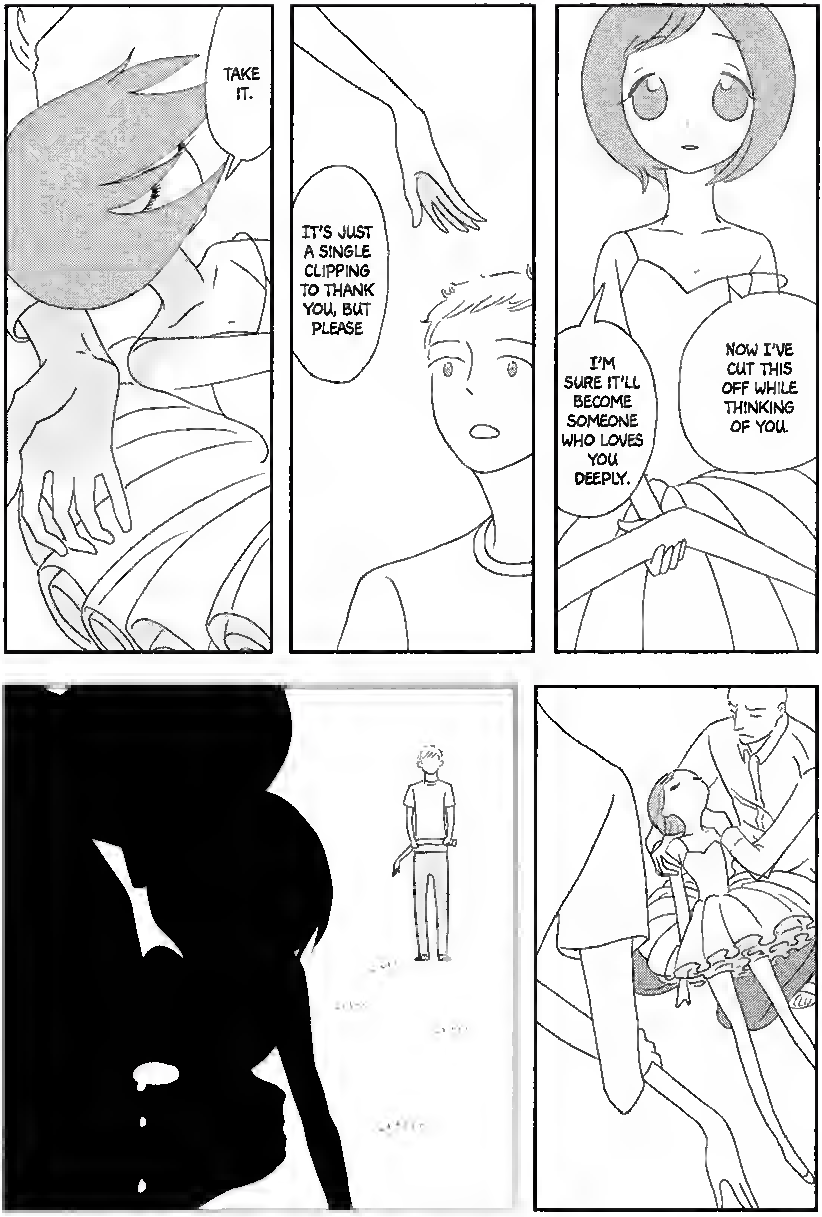

BRANCHES, I GUESS
WHY?
shnk

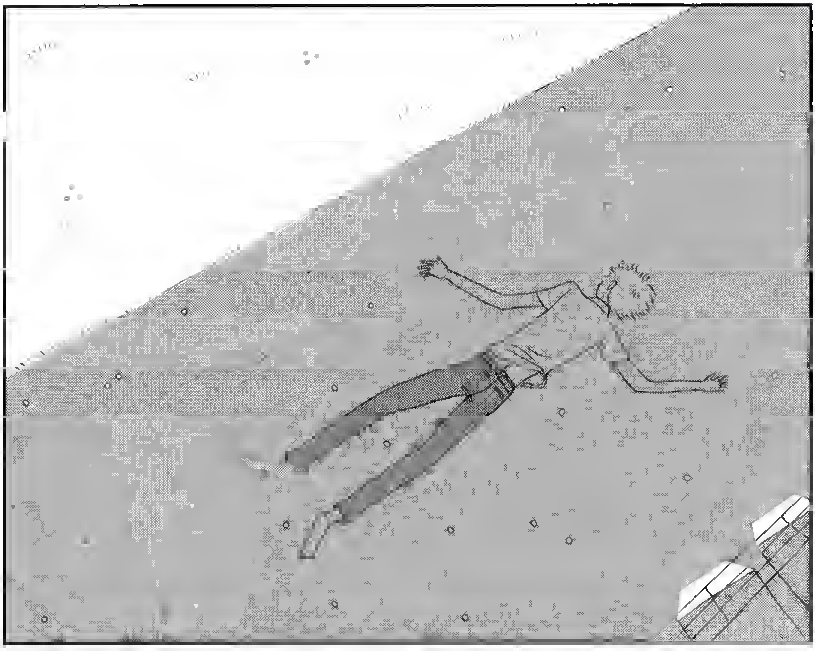
I'VE BEEN THINKING OVER WHAT TO DO
YOU'RE REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME,
BUT I LOVE MY DAD.

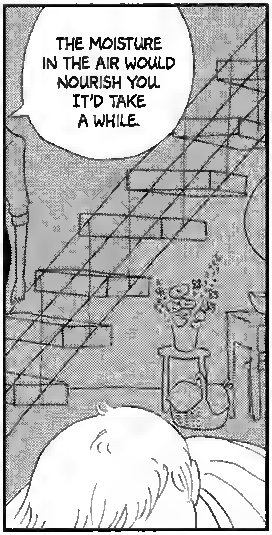
I DID HEAR WHAT YOU SAID
BY THE SEA.


TO SETTLE ON HIS HEART.
INSTEAD OF THAT STAR, HE GOT ME

ELEVEN YEARS AGO, YOU TRIED TO MAKE A STAR TO GIVE TO MY DAD


TAKE IT.
IT'S JUST A SINGLE CLIPPING TO THANK YOU, BUT PLEASE
I'M SURE IT'LL BECOME SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU DEEPLY.
NOW I'VE CUT THIS OFF WHILE THINKING OF YOU.




THE MOISTURE IN THE AIR WOULD NOURISH YOU. IT'D TAKE A WHILE.

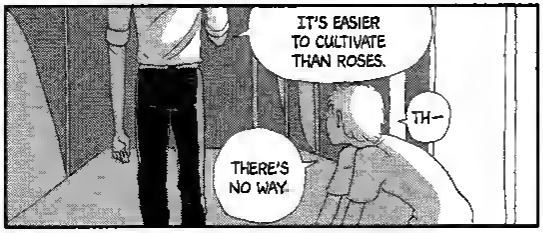
SHE'LL HEAL SOON, LIKE YOUR FINGER DID. DON'T WORRY SO MUCH.
IF YOU IGNORE IT, IT'LL EVENTUALLY TURN INTO SOMETHING LIKE THE THOUSAND-ARMED KANNON. I HAD TO PRUNE IT LAST TIME.
STILL, I CAN'T GO ON.
I'M GOING TO SHRIVEL UP RIGHT HERE AND DIE.

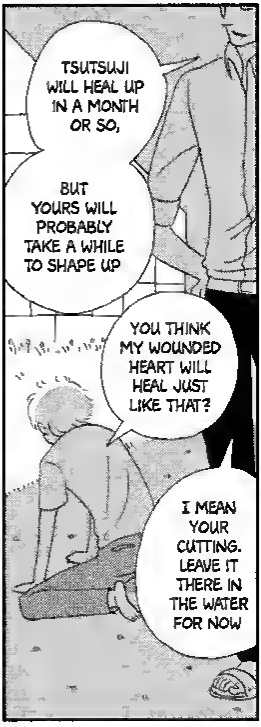
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I CAN'T GO ON

PEDO-
PHILE.
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, NARCISSIST.

YOU ARE THE CAPTAIN OF THE GARDENING CLUB.
TAKE CARE OF THE CUTTING

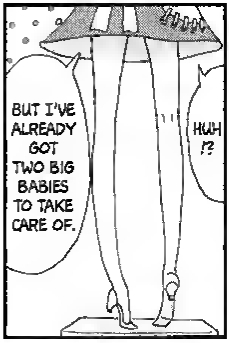
NOT A CHANCE!
FORGET IT!

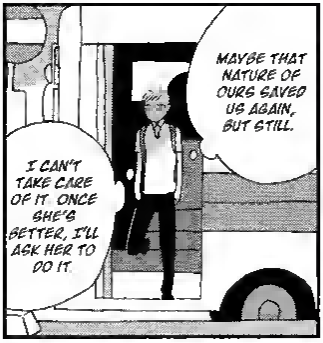

IT'S EASIER TO CULTIVATE THAN ROSES.
TH—
THERE'S NO WAY.

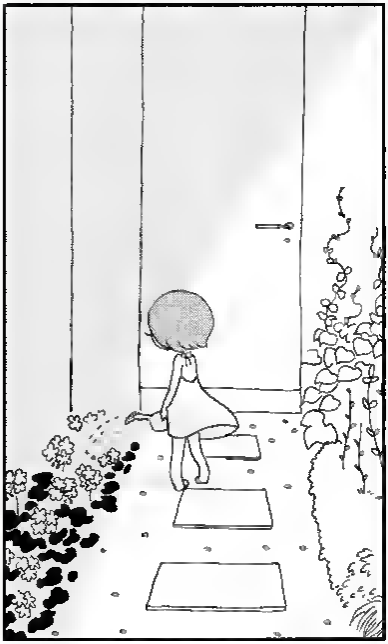

TSUTSUJI WILL HEAL UP IN A MONTH OR SO,
BUT YOURS WILL PROBABLY TAKE A WHILE TO SHAPE UP
YOU THINK MY WOUNDED HEART WILL HEAL JUST LIKE THAT?
I MEAN YOUR CUTTING. LEAVE IT THERE IN THE WATER FOR NOW

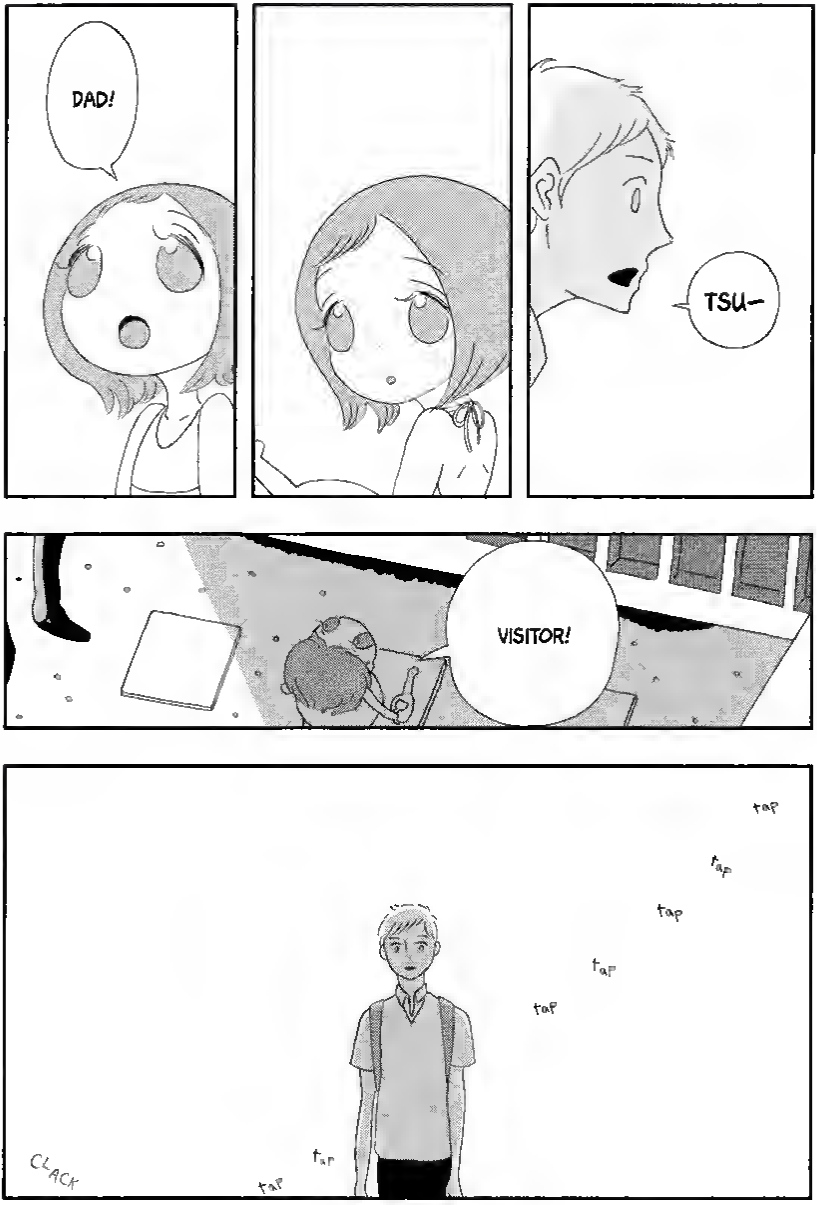
EVEN AFTER BEING CUT APART, WE GO BACK TO NORMAL

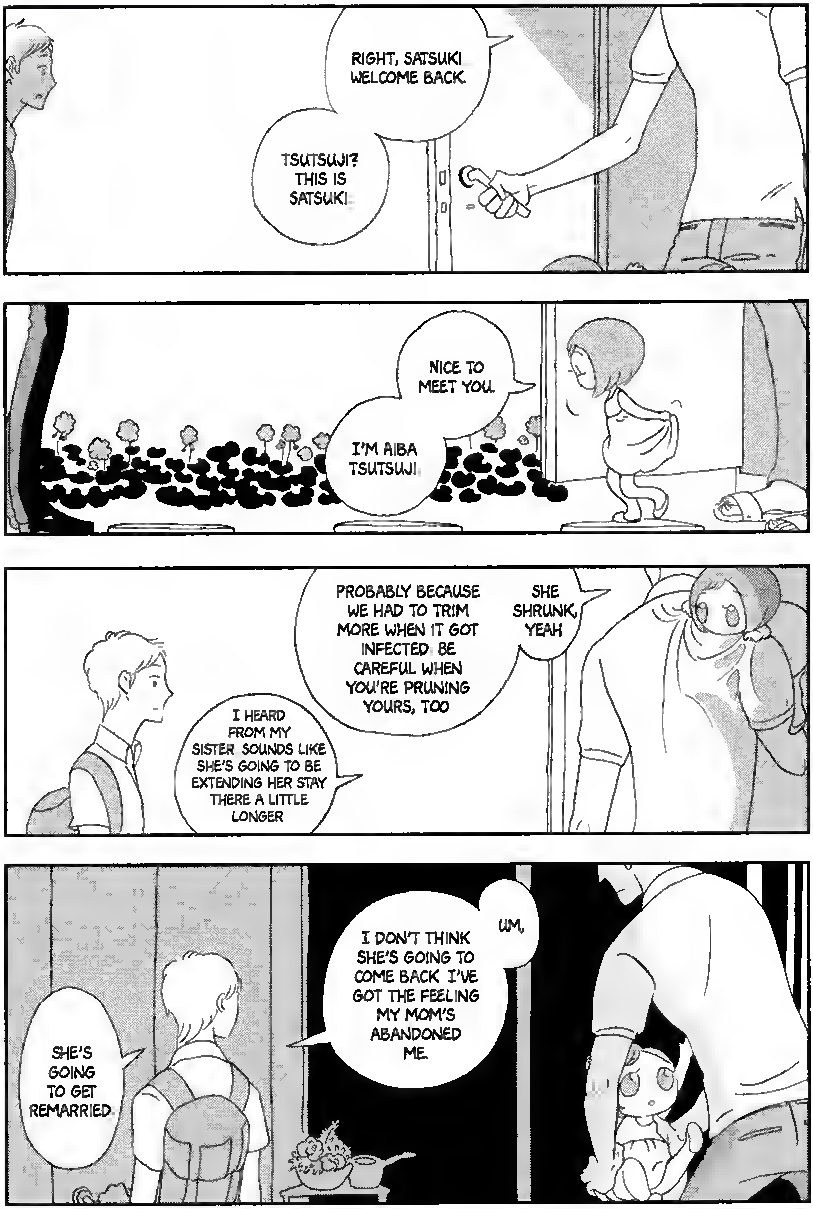
...AND I GET THAT'D BE, HER BODY WHICH REMINDS ME, IT'S BEEN AROUND A MONTH ALREADY

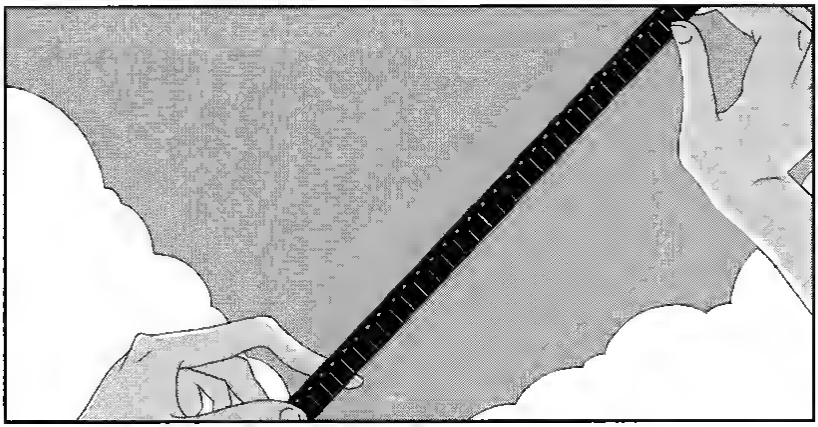

BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT TWO BIG BABIES TO TAKE CARE OF.
HUH!?


I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF IT. ONCE SHE'S BETTER, I'LL ASK HER TO DO IT.
MAYBE THAT NATURE OF OURS SAVED US AGAIN, BUT STILL.



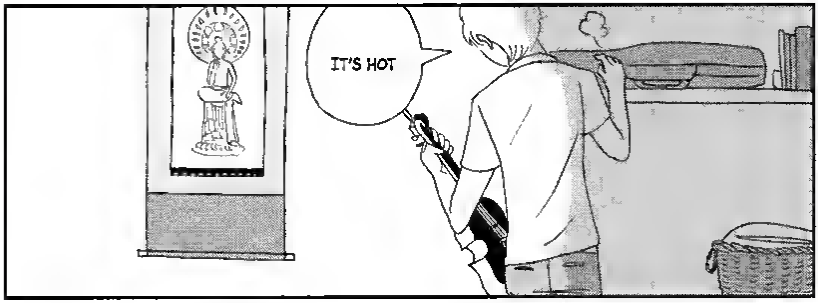

DAD!
TSU–
VISITOR!
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
CLACK
tap
tap


RIGHT, SATSUKI. WELCOME BACK.
TSUTSUJI? THIS IS SATSUKI.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M AIBA TSUTSUJI.
SHE SHRUNK, YEAH
PROBABLY BECAUSE WE HAD TO TRIM MORE WHEN IT GOT INFECTED. BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU'RE PRUNING YOURS, TOO
I HEARD FROM MY SISTER. SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S GOING TO BE EXTENDING HER STAY THERE A LITTLE LONGER
UM,
I DON'T THINK SHE'S GOING TO COME BACK. I'VE GOT THE FEELING MY MOM'S ABANDONED ME.
SHE'S GOING TO GET REMARRIED.

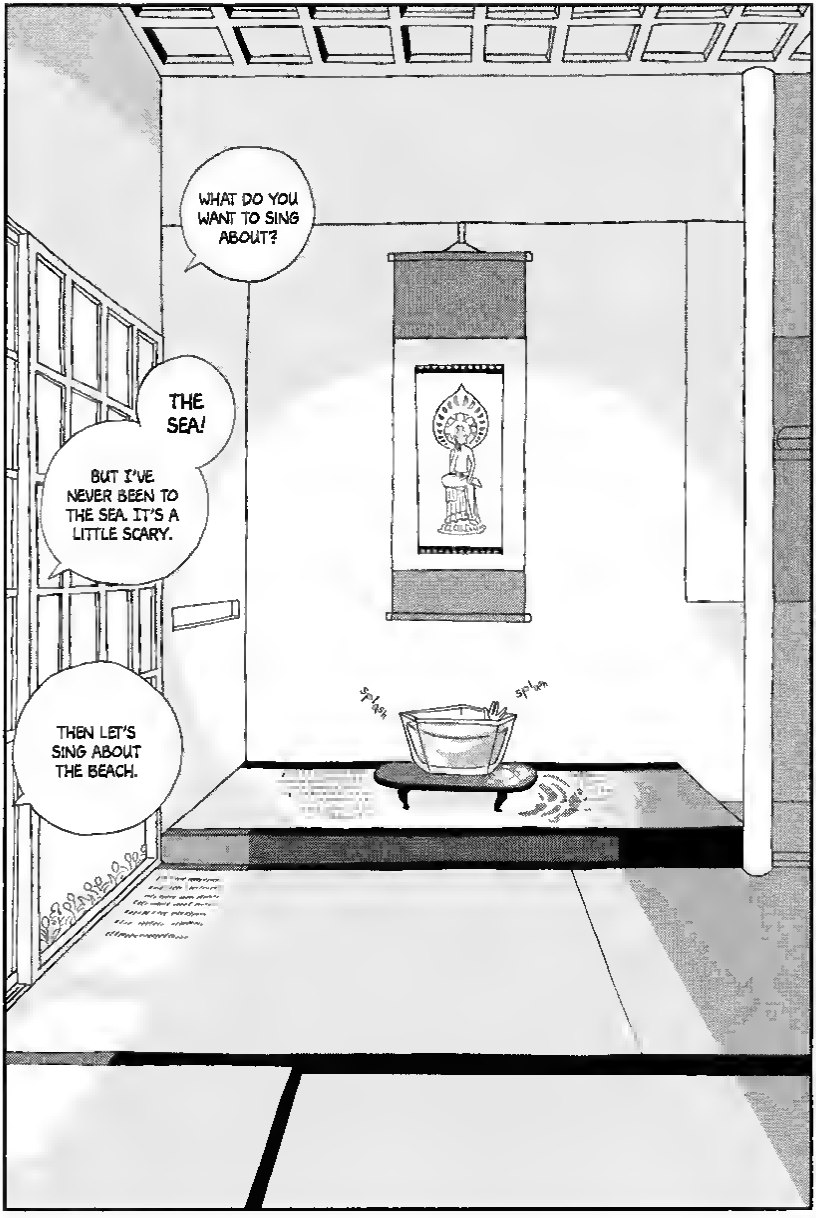


HOW ABOUT WE START GIVING TSUTSUJI SINGING LESSONS?

ALL BLACK
SATSUKI
CLACK
CLACK


IT'S HOT

THAT'S RIGHT.
I HOPE YOU CAN SING WITH US SOON, TOO
MAYBE THIS'LL BE A NICE DIVERSION
Plink


WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SING ABOUT?
THE SEA!
BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE SEA. IT'S A LITTLE SCARY.
THEN LET'S SING ABOUT THE BEACH.
Splash
Splash

Note: Kannon, drawn on the wall here, is a Buddhist deity sometimes depicted with a thousand arms to aid the suffering. Kannon is considered by some followers to be the mother of the human race.